

AUG.-SEPT.

# Lovelorn

STIRRING STORIES OF REAL ROMANCE

10¢

52  
PAGES

THE GIRL I LOVE---  
AND SHE'S PROMISED  
TO WAIT FOR HIM  
FOREVER! I WONDER---CAN  
A GIRL'S LIFE HOLD JUST ONE  
GREAT ROMANCE?





WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM



**Now YOU CAN HAVE  
DARING *Newest Look* BEAUTY  
WITH ALL-IN-ONE  
TRIOLETTE**

*It's All  
These*

- 1-uplift bra  
2-waist nipper  
3-garter belt

Put your figure in style! Look feminine, curvaceous—instantly—with new marvelous TRIOLETTE. It's taken New York by storm

it's all the rage with smart girls...because it rounds you enticingly in the right places with never a bulge in the wrong ones! Lightly but cleverly boned—to pull in your waist, give fullness to hips, lift bust to alluring firm contours. No matter what shape bosom you have! Magical, you'll agree. .and this one little garment does it all! In luxury rayon satin—with revealing lace inserts at bust, dainty net edging at top and bottom. Comfortable! Lastex insert, adjustable hook-and-eye back fastening, 4 adjustable garters. Bra straps included, adjustable, easy to attach. New TRIOLETTE costs little more than bra alone! We know you'll be thrilled—your money back if not 100% pleased with your glamorous "New Look"

**For That  
Thrilling  
NEW LOOK**



*Have* **Tiny Waist  
—Full Bosom  
FIGURE**



BE SMARTLY  
STRAPLESS OR  
WEAR STRAPS  
ALSO  
INCLUDED

figure. A cup, 32 to 36.  
B cup, (larger) 32 to 38.  
Blue white or nude.

**\$595** • BLUE  
• WHITE  
• NUDE

SEND ON 10-DAY APPROVAL

**WILCO CO., Dept. 605-H  
45 East 17th St., New York**

Rush your new TRIOLETTE for \$5.95. CUP \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postage. ☐ I enclose \$5.95. You pay postage

1st Color Choice

2nd Color Choice

**Costs so little**

**MAIL COUPON NOW!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zone, State \_\_\_\_\_

I understand if not delighted with TRIOLETTE I can return in 10 days for full purchase price refund.





**C**AN A WOMAN'S HEART GO OUT TO ONLY ONE MAN? HAS HER LIFE ROOM FOR BUT ONE LOVE? THIS WAS THE SOUL-SEARING PROBLEM THAT BLASTED THE LIFE OF **CLAIRE ANDREWS** LIKE A FIERY COMET... AND CONFRONTED HER WITH THE MOST TRAGIC CHOICE THAT EVER A GIRL FACED! READ THIS STIRRING STORY IN HER OWN WORDS...

# TWICE I LOVED!

**T**HE WAR CHANGED MANY LIVES, READER... PERHAPS MINE WAS NO EXCEPTION! I REMEMBER THE START OF THAT CHANGE... THAT CRAZY, DIZZYING NEW YEAR'S EVE IN 1943! JUST A GAL WITH HER DATE... CAPTAIN FRANK VICKERS OF THE U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE...

GOLLY, CLAIRE, TIMES SQUARE'S NO PLACE FOR US IN THIS MOB! I'VE GOT RESERVATIONS AT THE BLUE ROOM... IF WE CAN EVER PUSH OUR WAY THROUGH!

**SWELL, FRANK!**  
LET'S SEE YOU TRY OUT THOSE FOOTBALL SHOULDERS OF YOURS!

**"LAUGHTER, BRIGHT LIGHTS, DIN AND EXCITEMENT... THEY SENT MY BLOOD RACING! EVEN FRANK ASSUMED A NEW GLAMOR! HE'D SEEMED MERELY A NICE BOY ON OUR PREVIOUS DATES... BUT TONIGHT HE WAS ROMANTIC!"**

THAT DANCE... YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL, KID! LET'S GET BACK TO OUR TABLE! THERE'S SOMETHING... I WANT TO SAY!

OKAY... IF I CAN MANAGE TO HEAR YOU! I'M HALF DEAF!

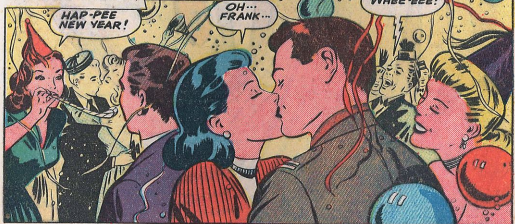
**BLAT!**



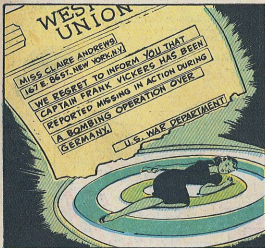




"TWELVE O'CLOCK! IT WAS THE NEW YEAR, 1944... USHERING IN A NEW LOVE... A NEW LIFE!"







"HAPPY, CAREFREE TIMES WERE A MOCKERY, A RELIC OF THE VANISHED PAST! SO WERE MEN, FOR MY HEART CRIED OUT FOR JUST ONE WHO COULD NEVER COME AGAIN!"



"THAT'S HOW THINGS WERE WHEN I WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER DEPARTMENT! BY THIS TIME I'D LET MYSELF GO, CARED LITTLE FOR MY APPEARANCE! I SCARCELY EVEN RESEMBLED THE GIRL I'D BEEN... AND I COULD TELL THAT DAN MATTHEWS, MY NEW BOSS, DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF ME!"





"**I** KNEW WHAT HE THOUGHT I WAS... BUT I DIDN'T CARE MUCH UNTIL ONE NIGHT..."



I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T MIND WORKING OVERTIME, MISS ANDREWS! AFTER ALL, IT ISN'T AS IF YOU EVER HAD ANYTHING ELSE TO DO!

OH...

"**I** RESTRAINED MY TEARS UNTIL AFTER HE LEFT! THEN..."



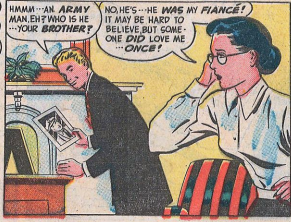
IS... IS THIS WHAT I'VE BECOME... JUST A PIECE OF OFFICE FURNITURE?

"**THEN, SUDDENLY...** MISS ANDREWS, I... I'M SORRY! I SAW THE HURT IN YOUR EYES... I HAD TO COME BACK TO APOLOGIZE!"



DON'T... DON'T LET IT TROUBLE YOU, MR. MATTHEWS! WHO EVER HEARD OF AN OLD MAID HAVING FEELINGS?

"**HE** INSISTED ON TAKING ME HOME... AND MORE TO GET RID OF HIM THAN ANYTHING ELSE, I CONSENTED! WHEN WE ARRIVED..."



HMMM... AN ARMY MAN, EH? WHO IS HE... YOUR BROTHER?

NO, HE'S... HE WAS MY FIANCEE! IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT SOMEONE DID LOVE ME... ONCE!



FORGIVE ME... GUESS I KEEP PUTTING MY FOOT INTO IT, DON'T I? BUT SAY, THIS GIRL... SHE'S GORGEOUS! WHO'S SHE?

WHY, THAT'S... THAT'S... MY SISTER...



OH... YOUR SISTER, EH? UH-HUH...

OH, WHY HAVEN'T I GOT THE COURAGE TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH... THAT THAT WAS ME... AND THIS IS WHAT I'VE LET MYSELF COME TO!

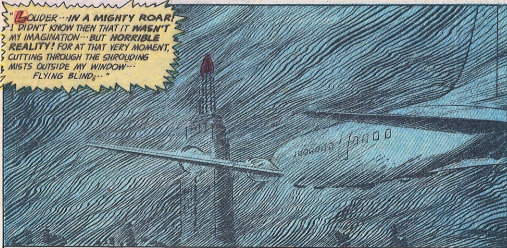


WEARY AND HEARTBREAKING THE  
LOVELY DAYS PASSED! I TRIED TO  
BURY MYSELF IN MY WORK... BUT  
SOMETIMES, I'D BECOME AWARE OF  
DAN MATTHEWS LOOKING AT ME  
...STRANGELY! BUT EVER PRESENT  
WERE MY THOUGHTS OF FRANK,  
CROWDING HIM FROM MY MIND!  
THEN... ONE FOGGY SATURDAY  
MORNING IN AUGUST... IN MY  
OFFICE IN THE EMPIRE STATE  
BUILDING ..."



FRANK... DARLING... YOU'RE ALWAYS  
WITH ME! I CAN'T FORGET THE WAY  
YOU LOOKED... THE WAY YOU SPOKE!  
AND WHENEVER I THINK OF YOU, I SEEM  
TO HEAR YOUR AIRPLANE! BUT... BUT  
WHY SHOULD ITS MOTORS SEEM  
TO BE GROWING LOUDER...  
**LOUDER!**

**"LOUDER... IN A MIGHTY ROAR!**  
I DIDN'T KNOW THEN THAT IT WASN'T  
MY IMAGINATION... BUT HORRIBLE  
REALITY! FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT,  
CUTTING THROUGH THE SHROUDING  
MISTS OUTSIDE MY WINDOW...  
FLYING BLIND..."



HELP!

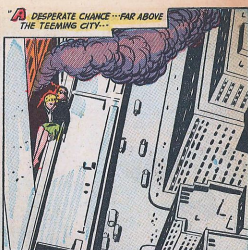
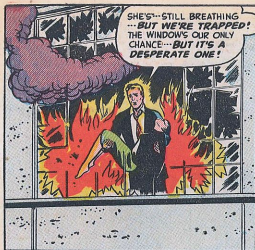
**CRASH!**

E-E-E-K!

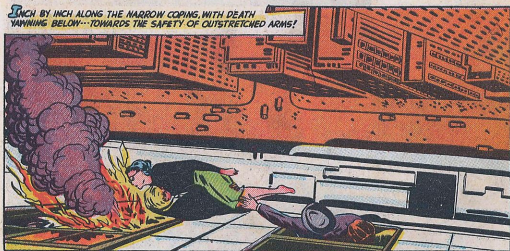
CLAIRE... CLARE! SHE'S PROBABLY  
... DEAD ... BUT I'VE GOT TO GET  
HER OUT OF THIS INFERNO!



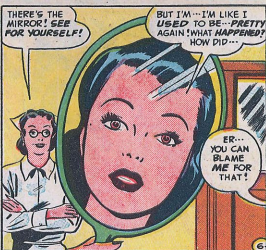




INCH BY INCH ALONG THE NARROW CORPSE, WITH DEATH  
YAWNING BELOW...TOWARDS THE SAFETY OF OUTSTRETCHED ARMS!



A WEEK LATER...METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL...



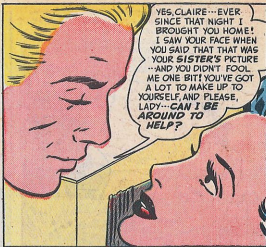


**DAN MATTHEWS---AT YOUR SERVICE!** YOU SEE, AS SOON AS WE KNEW YOU WERE OKAY, I--- **I HAD YOU FIXED UP!** I WANTED YOU TO COME TO AS THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL YOU REALLY WERE--- AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN **ALL ALONG!**

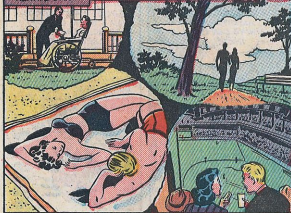
THEN---  
THEN YOU  
**KNEW?**



YES, CLAIRE---EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT I BROUGHT YOU HOME! I SAW YOUR FACE WHEN YOU SAID THAT THAT WAS YOUR **SISTER'S** PICTURE---AND YOU DIDN'T FOOL ME ONE BIT! YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO MAKE UP TO YOURSELF, AND PLEASE, LADY---**CAN I BE AROUND TO HELP?**



**LYELL**---I COULDN'T REFUSE THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE! AND SO, THROUGH THE SLOW DAYS OF CONVALESCENCE, THERE WAS DAN---ALWAYS DAN---



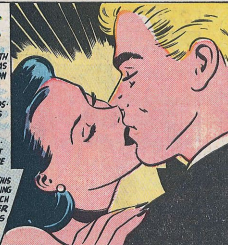
**'ALWAYS DAN'---AND A GROWING INTIMACY BROUGHT US CLOSE TOGETHER! BUT I HADN'T REALIZED HOW CLOSE---UNTIL THAT BITTER-SWEET NIGHT---**

WHAT A MOON---EH, CLAIRE? I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES--- AND THERE ARE A THOUSAND STARS DANCING THERE!

WHY, DAN--- THAT'S ALMOST **POETRY!** TELL ME---DO YOU SEE ANYTHING ELSE?



"HIS DEEPLY-INTAKEN BREATH TOLD ME IT WAS A RASH QUESTION---BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! WE SWAYED TOWARDS EACH OTHER AS IF BY SOME STRANGE MAGNETISM---AND THE NEXT SECOND, WE WERE LOST IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS! THIS WAS A RICH, SINGING INTOXICATION SUCH AS I HAD NEVER FELT---THIS WAS **LOVE!**"



**LIPS** PRESSED UPON MINE---THE STRENGTH OF A MAN'S EMBRACE---AND SUDDENLY IT HAPPENED! A TORRENT OF MEMORIES ENGULFED ME---OF OTHER LIPS, OTHER ARMS! I

HEARD MY OWN VOICE, AND IT TOLD FRANK, 'I PROMISE TO WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER!'

NO, DAN! LET ME GO!



IM...SORRY, BUT  
THIS...**CAN'T BE!**  
THERE'S TOO MUCH  
THAT'S...GONE  
BEFORE...

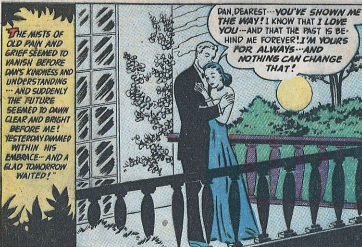
I THINK I UNDERSTAND, CLAIRE! A  
SHADOW HAS COME BETWEEN US,  
KEEPING US APART! IT'S THE  
SHADOW OF A **DEAD MAN...**  
**FRANK  
VICKERS!**



OH DARLING, DARLING...YOU'VE GOT TO FACE LIFE  
AND BURY THE PAST! YOU CAN'T LIVE WITH JUST  
**MEMORIES**...HE WOULDN'T WANT IT THAT WAY!  
HE'D WANT YOU TO SEEK THE HAPPINESS YOU DE-  
SERVE...THE NEW LIFE THAT'S WAITING FOR YOU!  
AND IF YOU CAN FIND ANY LOVE FOR ME IN YOUR  
HEART...**I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!**



**"THE MISTS OF  
OLD PAIN AND  
GRIEF SEEMED TO  
VANISH BEFORE  
DAN'S KINDNESS AND  
UNDERSTANDING...  
AND SUDDENLY  
THE FUTURE  
SEEMED TO DAWN  
CLEAR AND BRIGHT  
BEFORE ME!  
YESTERDAY DIMMED  
WITHIN HIS  
EMBRACE-- AND A  
GLAD TOMORROW  
WAITED!"**



DAN, DEAREST...YOU'VE SHOWN ME  
THE WAY! I KNOW THAT I LOVE  
YOU--AND THAT THE PAST IS BE-  
HIND ME FOREVER! I'M YOURS  
FOR ALWAYS...AND  
NOTHING CAN CHANGE  
THAT!

**"DAN'S...FOR ALWAYS!  
WE SET OUR MARRIAGE  
DATE FOR A MONTH...  
HENCE...AND NEVER  
HAD I BEEN SO DE-  
LIRIOUSLY HAPPY! WITH  
THE FLEETING WEEKS, I  
FOUND FRANK BECOMING  
A DIM, SWEET MEMORY...  
ALMOST TOO QUICKLY!  
PERHAPS MY CONSCIENCE WAS  
BOTHERING ME...PERHAPS  
THAT'S WHY I NOW MADE A  
STRANGE REQUEST..."**



I--I KNOW WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THOSE  
SOLDIERS WHO ARE...GONE...BUT HOW ABOUT  
THE **WOUNDED**...LYING IN HOSPITALS AND WAIT-  
ING FOR A FRIENDLY HAND? PLEASE, DAN, LET ME  
KEEP THEM ALIVE IN MY HEART AS A MONUMENT  
TO FRANK!

THAT'S A SWELL THOUGHT...FROM  
A **SWELL GIRL!** WE'LL GO TO  
VETERANS' HOSPITALS, BRING THINGS  
LIKE CIGARETTES AND BOOKS...  
**I'M ALL FOR IT!**



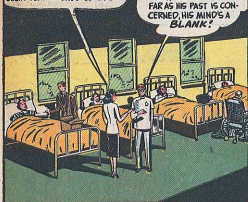
**"IT WAS AT THE FOURTH HOSPITAL WE VISITED..."**



HEY DON'T GIVE THEM ALL AWAY, CLAIRE  
...LET'S SAVE A FEW PRESENTS FOR  
THE WARDS!



THAT MAN--THE ONE IN THE WHEEL CHAIR--WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM, DOCTOR? HE DOESN'T SEEM VERY INTERESTED IN US!

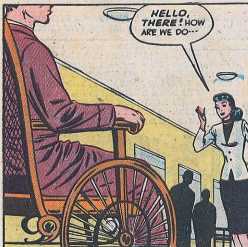


HE'S A SAD CASE, MISS ANDREWS--**AMNESIA!** HE'LL RECOVER PHYSICALLY, ALL RIGHT, BUT AS FAR AS HIS PAST IS CONCERNED, HIS MIND'S A **BLANK!**

HOW...**TRAGIC!** BUT ISN'T THERE **SOME** WAY TO TRACE HIS IDENTITY? DOCTAGS... FINGERPRINTS...?



I'M AFRAID NOT--SINCE **BOTH** WERE BLOWN OFF WHEN HE WAS FOUND! HE'S DOOMED ALWAYS TO REMAIN AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER... UNLESS SOMETHING FROM HIS PRE-WAR DAYS RECALLS HIS PAST TO HIM! HE'S BEEN BROODING LATELY--PERHAPS **YOU** COULD CHEER HIM UP!



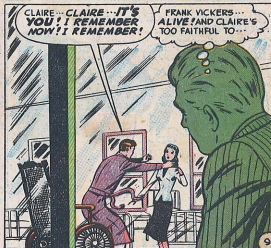
HELLO, THERE! HOW ARE WE DO--



HOW--N-NO. NO! IT--IT C-CAN'T BE!



YOUR FACE--YOUR VOICE--IT'S LIKE OPENING--A WINDOW IN MY MIND! SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME... I **KNEW YOU!**



CLAIRE... **CLAIRE--IT'S YOU! I REMEMBER NOW! I REMEMBER!**

FRANK VICKERS... **ALIVE! AND CLAIRE'S TOO FAITHFUL TO--**



GOODBYE...  
DARLING...

I LEFT THE HOSPITAL LATER, MY MIND IN A DIZZYING WHIRL! THE DEAD RESTORED TO LIFE...MY FIRST LOVE WITH ME ONCE MORE! THIS WAS WHAT I HAD WANTED WASN'T IT? THEY WERE WHERE WAS THE GLORIOUS RAPTURE I SHOULD HAVE FELT? INSTEAD...



DAN'S LEFT ME FOR GOOD! HE WAS TOO SQUARE, TOO TRUE-BLUE... TO STAND BETWEEN ME AND MY...MY DUTY...

SLEEP CAME SLOWLY THAT NIGHT...BRINGING WITH IT AN ASSAULTING NIGHTMARE OF DOUBT! THE MAN I LOVED...WHO? DAN OR FRANK? FRANK OR DAN?



MORNING AT LAST...AND WITH IT, A FATEFUL DECISION! FOR I HAD PURGED MY HEART IN PAIN...AND KNEW ITS CHOICE BEYOND ANY DOUBT!

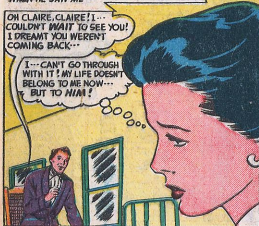


DUTY...DUTY...CAN I WRECK MY HAPPINESS FOR IT...AND DAN'S? I'M DESPERATELY SORRY FOR FRANK, BUT HE CAN'T ASK ME TO SACRIFICE TWO LIVES FOR HIM! I KNOW NOW THAT HE WAS A WARTIME ROMANCE... THAT IT'S DAN I CARE FOR NOW! IT'S NOT FAIR! I'LL...I'LL ASK FRANK TO RELEASE ME!

BUT FRANK WAS PITIFUL IN HIS GRATITUDE WHEN HE SAW ME...

OH CLAIRE, CLAIRE! I... COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU! I DREAMT YOU WEREN'T COMING BACK...

I...CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT! MY LIFE DOESN'T BELONG TO ME NOW... BUT TO HIM!



MY DREAMS WERE FOR DAN...BUT MY DAYS WERE FRANK'S! HE MADE MIRACULOUS STRIDES TOWARDS RECOVERY...AND WAS CHILDISHLY PROUD AS HIS PAST-RETURNING MEMORY FILLED THE CLOSING GAPS IN HIS MIND!

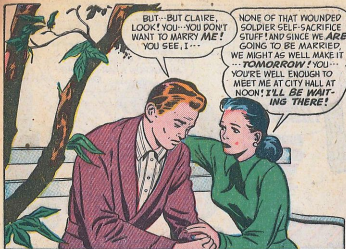


I...I CAN REMEMBER MY PLANE CRASHING NOW! AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S COMING BACK TO ME NOW...SOMETHING BEFORE THAT...

SKIP IT, FRANK...I DON'T WANT YOU AGITATING YOURSELF WITH THOSE HORRIBLE RECOLLECTIONS! YOU'RE NEARLY WELL NOW, SO IT...IT'S TIME WE BEGAN THINKING ABOUT GOING THROUGH WITH OUR ENGAGEMENT!







BUT--BUT CLAIRE,  
LOOK! YOU--YOU DON'T  
WANT TO MARRY ME!  
YOU SEE, I---

NONE OF THAT WOUNDED  
SOLDIER SELF-SACRIFICE  
STUFF! AND SINCE WE ARE  
GOING TO BE MARRIED,  
WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT  
...TOMORROW! YOU--  
YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO  
MEET ME AT CITY HALL AT  
NOON! I'LL BE WAIT-  
ING THERE!



"THERE! IT WAS DONE--  
DECIDED! I WALKED THE  
STREETS THAT NIGHT, TRYING  
TO GIRD MY RESOLUTION!  
I MUSTN'T GO BACK ON MY  
WORD! I MUSTN'T THINK OF DAN  
...OR THAT OTHER MARRIAGE I HAD  
LOOKED FORWARD TO SO EAGERLY!  
FRANK WOULD BE MY LIFE--  
STERN DUTY MY COMPANION!"

"NEXT DAY...AT CITY HALL..."

FRANK'S OVER AN HOUR LATE! I  
WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING HIM?  
I--I WANT TO GET  
THIS OVER  
WITH!

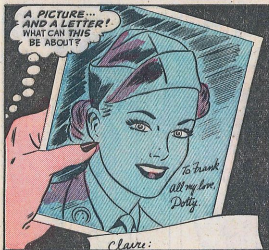
HEY, LADY!  
...YOUR NAME  
CLAIRE  
ANDREWS?

MARRIAGE  
BUREAU



THAT'S RIGHT!  
WHY, WHAT--

DUNNO, MISS--SOME SOLDIER  
GAVE ME IT! SAID TO GIVE IT  
TO YOU!



A PICTURE...  
AND A LETTER!  
WHAT CAN THIS  
BE ABOUT?

To Frank  
all my love,  
Doty.

Claire:

"I READ--AND THE WORDS SWAM BEFORE  
MY UNBELIEVING EYES!"

Claire:  
I guess I'm not the steady  
reliable guy you thought. I didn't  
have enough nerve to tell you about  
that "something else" I remembered  
back at the hospital. It wasn't  
a war experience...it was  
Doty! We fell for each other in  
Paris and got married on the  
spur of the moment.

"...I CRASHED BEFORE I COULD WRITE YOU ABOUT IT--AND WHEN I FINALLY REMEMBERED, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU! SO I'M OFF TO LET DOTTY KNOW I'M ALIVE, FORGIVE ME...I KNOW YOU LOVED ME! ...FRANK"

FORGIVE HIM  
...HE KNOWS I  
LOVED HIM!--  
BRO-THER!  
I ALMOST DO  
FOR THAT!  
ZOWIE ...  
WHERE'S A  
TELEPHONE?

SORRY, BUT MR. MATTHEWS LEFT TOWN AN HOUR AGO ON THE CHICAGO LIMITED! HE HEARD YOU WERE GETTING MARRIED TODAY AND SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO STAY AROUND!

WHMM... AN HOUR AGO.  
EH? WELL, I KNOW WHERE I  
CAN BORROW A CAR... A FAST  
ONE!

**H**OURS LATER...AS THE CHICAGO LIMITED THUNDERS WESTWARD...

ON, I SUPPOSE I CAN'T  
BLAME HER, THE SELF-SACRIFIC-  
ING LITTLE IDIOT, BUT...HEY!  
WHAT'S THAT LUNATIC TRYING  
TO DO... COMMIT  
SUICIDE?

**B**UT AS THE "LUNATIC" SWERVES CLOSER... NEVER MIND NOW, YOU DARLING DOPE! BETTER FRESHEN UP... BECAUSE I'M JOINING YOU AT THE NEXT STOP!

CLAIRE!  
BUT WHAT...  
HOW...

NEVER MIND NOW,  
YOU DARLING DOPE!  
BETTER FRESHEN UP...  
BECAUSE I'M JOINING  
YOU AT THE  
NEXT STOP!

**A**ND NEXT STOP...

HONEY--HONEY...I--  
I JUST DON'T UNDER-  
STAND! WON'T SOME-  
BODY TELL ME  
SOMETHING?

LET'S GAVE EXPLANATIONS  
FOR LATER! FOR NOW,  
JUST HOLD ME  
TIGHT, SWEETHEART  
...AND NEVER LET  
ME GO!

YESSIR! THIRTY YEARS ON THIS  
RAILROAD...AND I STILL THINK  
I'VE GOT THE BEST JOB IN  
THE COUNTRY!

THE  
END



ALL MY LIFE I'D  
KNOWN POVERTY -- THE  
PRIVATION OF HAND-ME-DOWNS!  
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ONE PRECIOUS  
ASSET WAS MINE -- THAT WITHIN  
MY BEATING HEART LAY  
ALL THE SHINING  
WEALTH OF A ---

# Rich Little Poor Girl



**I** CAN NEVER REMEMBER  
HAVING ANYTHING THAT WAS  
TRULY MINE! CLOTHES? THEY  
CAME RIGHT OFF COUSIN PAMELA'S  
BACK -- WHEN SHE WAS THROUGH  
WITH THEM! AND HOW SHE  
GLORIED IN IT!

NOW THANK  
PAMELA FOR  
THE LOVELY  
DRESS  
DEAR!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT!  
I CAN SEE HOW  
HAPPY SHE IS!

WHAT'S YOUR  
HURRY, ANY? ARE  
YOU SURE YOU  
WOULDN'T WANT  
A SODA? AFTER  
ALL -- I'M  
BUYING!

**HAW-HAW!**  
THAT'S TELLING  
HER!

"THROUGHOUT MY SCHOOL YEARS,  
IT WAS THE SAME STORY --  
PAMELA THROWING UP MY POVERTY  
WHenever SHE HAD THE CHANCE!"

"IT WAS IN THAT MOMENT OF  
GRIEF AND HURT PRIDE THAT  
**BILL GREGG** FIRST CAME  
INTO MY UNHAPPY LIFE!"

I SAW WHAT HARPEHED,  
KID! CHEER UP -- DOPES  
LIKE THOSE AREN'T  
WORTH CRYING  
ABOUT!

OH -- IT'S  
NICE OF YOU  
TO --

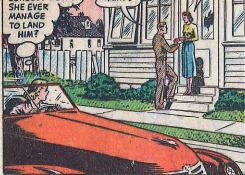


"IT WAS THE FIRST OF MANY GLAD MEETINGS! WITH BILL, MY HEART SEEMED TO BLOOM AGAIN! -- AND PAMELA LOST HER CRUEL MEANING! --"

THAT LITTLE MINX -- AND THE BEST-LOOKING BOY IN SCHOOL! HOW'D SHE EVER MANAGE TO LAND HIM?

THEN IT'S A DATE FOR THE SENIOR PROM, AMY?

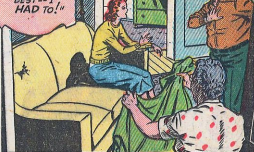
I'LL SAY! I CAN HARDLY WAIT!



"THE SENIOR PROM -- AND A BOY LIKE THAT! IT WAS ECSTASY! I WANTED TO LOOK MY BEST -- I HAD TO!"

PLEASE -- LET ME BUY A PARTY DRESS JUST THIS ONCE!

NO! YOUR MOTHER'S FIXIN' OVER AN OLD ONE OF PAMELA'S -- THAT'LL BE GOOD ENOUGH!



"AND SO ONCE AGAIN IT WAS A HAND-ME-DOWN! BUT IT DIDN'T SEEM TO MATTER AS I FLOATED IN BILL'S STRONG ARMS! --"

WHO'S MY SWEETHEART-- SWEETHEART?

I -- I HOPE IT'S ME!

*Senior High*  
SENIOR PROM



"BUT THEN -- SUDDENLY --"

I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, AMY -- NOT LETTING YOUR COUSIN PAMELA HAVE A SINGLE DANCE WITH YOUR NICE ESCORT!

WE CAN FIX THAT SOON ENOUGH! HOW ABOUT THE NEXT ONE?



"I COULD SEE IT HAPPENING -- PAMELA TURNING ON HER CHARM -- BILL ENTRANCED! MUST SHE HAVE EVERYTHING -- AND I NOTHING?"

OH, DARLING, DARLING -- DON'T LET HER TAKE YOU AWAY FROM ME! PLEASE!

"BUT MY COUSIN HAD WON HER ENTERING WEDGE -- AND MADE SURE TO MONOPOLIZE MUCH OF HIS TIME AS THE DAYS PASSED! WAS I LOSING HIM? BUT THEN CAME GRADUATION, AND THOUGHTS OF THE FUTURE! PERHAPS FOR ONCE MY WEALTHY AUNT COULD REALLY HELP ME!"

DRAMATIC SCHOOL! I CAN'T AFFORD TO SEND BOTH YOU AND PAMELA THERE -- BUT I HAVE MANAGED TO LAND YOU A THEATRICAL POSITION!



YOU'LL SORT OF -- ER -- GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR -- AS AN USHERETTE AT THE BIJOU! -- YOU KNOW, DEAR, MANY FAMOUS ACTRESSES STARTED THAT WAY!

YES, I -- I KNOW! THANK YOU, AUNTIE --



"ONCE AGAIN, PAMELA HAD BEATEN ME! SHE'D LEARN THE THINGS I DREAMED OF, WHILE I -- I'D GUIDE PEOPLE TO THEIR SEATS!"



"SO I DOWNED MY DREAMS OF DRAMATICS! STANDING ON YOUR FEET ALL EVENING CAN BE TIRING -- BUT I COULD STILL THINK OF BILL, EVEN IF WORKING NIGHTS PREVENTED ME FROM EVER SEEING HIM!"

"I DID GET TO WATCH THE PICTURES! AND I WAS STRANGELY THRILLED BY EDMOND OLIVER, THE NEW SCREEN SENSATION, WHOSE LATEST PICTURE WAS HELD OVER FOR WEEKS AT THE BIJOU!"

"DAY AFTER DAY, HE GAZED FROM THE SILVER SCREEN, SEEMING TO TALK TO ME! AND BEFORE HIS GLAMOR, POOR PLAIN BILL SEEMED TO RETREAT INTO THE SHADY PAST!"

THERE'LL BE A SHORT WAIT FOR ORCHESTRA SEATS! IMMEDIATE SEATING IN THE MEZZANINE!

HE'S -- WONDERFUL!



"THERE WERE OTHER PICTURES -- OTHER ACTORS -- BUT I COULDN'T FORGET HIM! THEN THE UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENED! HE WAS COMING -- HERE!"

OH, JEEPEERS -- THIS IS MY CHANCE TO PROVE I CAN ACT! I'LL ENTER THE CONTEST -- AND WIN THAT DATE WITH EDMOND OLIVER! I'LL SHOW PAMELA...



YOU'LL SHOW ME WHAT?

WELL! MY MIDYEAR VACATION FROM DRAMATIC SCHOOL CAME JUST IN TIME -- IN TIME TO PROVE THAT MY TRAINING WILL WIN THAT CONTEST!

YOU'RE WRONG THIS TIME, PAMELA! I'VE GOT MY HEART SET ON COMING IN FIRST -- AND I'LL DO IT!

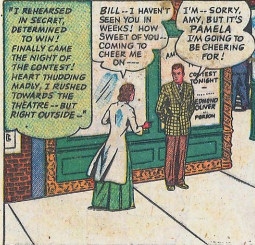


"I REHEARSED IN SECRET, DETERMINED TO WIN! FINALLY CAME THE NIGHT OF THE CONTEST! HEART THUDDING MADLY, I RUSHED TOWARDS THE THEATRE -- BUT RIGHT OUTSIDE..."

BILL -- I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN WEEKS! HOW SWEET OF YOU -- COMING TO CHEER ME ON --

I'M -- SORRY, AMY, BUT IT'S PAMELA I'M GOING TO BE CHEERING FOR!

CONTEST TONIGHT -- EDMOND OLIVER PERSON



"ANOTHER VICTORY FOR PAMELA! HIS WORDS STUNNED ME -- BUT THERE WAS WORSE TO COME!"

WE -- WE'VE BEEN DRIFTING APART! PERHAPS IT'S BEST THAT WAY, AMY -- BEST THAT WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE!

YOU'VE -- FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER! DON'T BOTHER DENYING IT -- THIS IS GOODBYE!



"THE CONTEST WAS ON--AND EVEN THROUGH MY BITTER TEARS, I COULD SEE THAT PAMELA WAS SENSATIONAL! WHAT DID IT MATTER, NOW THAT BILL WAS GONE?"



"I KNEW I HAD TO GO THROUGH WITH IT -- HAD TO SING THROUGH A THROAT CHOKED WITH SOBS! (IT WAS NO USE --)"

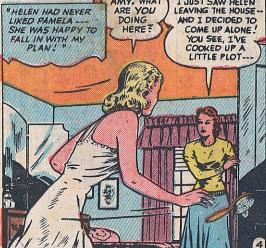


TOO BAD, CRY-BABY! I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MY DATE WITH EDMOND OLIVER!



"YES, PAMELA WON! AND WHEN THE EVENING OF HER BIG DATE CAME--"

BY RIGHTS I SHOULD HAVE WON THAT CONTEST! MR. OLIVER'S COMING HERE TO CALL FOR HER -- AND HE'S NEVER SEEN HER! HERE'S WHERE I GET EVEN!







--AND IT'S STARTING  
RIGHT NOW!

**SLAM!**

THIS IS AN  
OUTRAGE!  
OPEN THE  
DOOR!

"AND NOW  
HELEN RALLIED  
AROUND!  
A SKILLED  
HAIRDRESSER,  
SHE WORKED  
WONDERS  
WITH MY  
APPEARANCE--  
AND  
PAMELA'S  
BEST AND  
NEWEST  
GOWN  
DIDN'T  
HURT,  
EITHER!"



YOU LOOK  
BEAUTIFUL!  
JUST IN TIME,  
TOO -- THERE'S  
THE DOORBELL!  
BETTER LET HIM  
IN, AND BE  
CAREFUL!  
I HEAR HE'S  
THE SMOOTH  
TYPE!

DON'T BE SILLY!  
I'M SURE HE'S  
A PERFECT  
GENTLEMAN!



"EDMOND OLIVER! HANDSOME,  
THRILLING, ROMANTIC, HE HELPED  
ME TO FORGET THE HURT THAT  
BILL HAD DEALT ME!"

YES--I'M PAMELA  
GRANT! SHALL  
WE --LEAVE  
NOW?

BUT WHY  
THE GREAT  
HURRY,  
MISS  
GRANT?

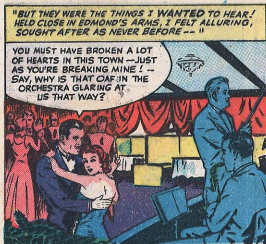
TRUTHFULLY, MY DEAR, I'D BEEN  
EXPECTING SOME FEMALE HORROR--  
AND INSTEAD I FIND A VISION OF  
LOVELINESS! WHY, I -- SAY,  
WHAT'S THAT  
NOISE?

**THUMP!**

IT'S--JUST THE  
PLUMBING! ER--  
SOME LEAKY DRIP  
IS BEING FIXED  
UPSTAIRS!  
LET'S GO,  
HUH?

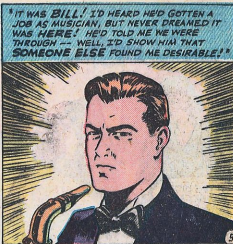
YOU'RE SO  
DIFFERENT--SO  
GORGEOUS!  
AND YOUR HAND  
--IT'S SO  
SOFT--

PLEASE,  
MR. OLIVER--  
EDMOND--  
YOU MUSTN'T  
SAY THINGS  
LIKE THAT!

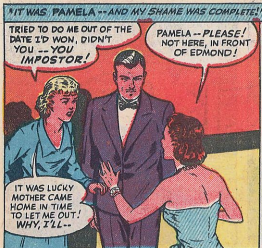


"BUT THEY WERE THE THINGS I WANTED TO HEAR!  
HELD CLOSE IN EDMOND'S ARMS, I FELT ALLURING,  
SOUGHT AFTER AS NEVER BEFORE -- "

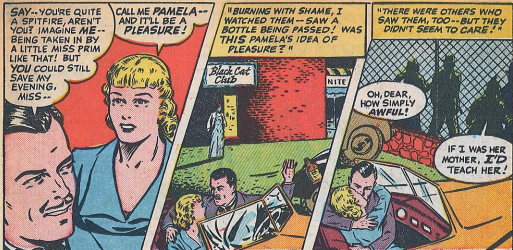
YOU MUST HAVE BROKEN A LOT  
OF HEARTS IN THIS TOWN--JUST  
AS YOU'RE BREAKING MINE! --  
SAY, WHY IS THAT OAF IN THE  
ORCHESTRA GLARING AT  
US THAT WAY?



"IT WAS BILL! I'D HEARD HE'D GOTTEN A  
JOB AS MUSICIAN, BUT NEVER DREAMED IT  
WAS HERE! HE'D TOLD ME WE WERE  
THROUGH -- WELL, I'D SHOW HIM THAT  
SOMEONE ELSE FOUND ME DESIRABLE!"







SAY--YOU'RE QUITE A SPITFIRE, AREN'T YOU? IMAGINE ME--BEING TAKEN IN BY A LITTLE MISS PRIM LIKE THAT! BUT YOU COULD STILL SAVE MY EVENING, MISS--

CALL ME PAMELA--AND IT'LL BE A PLEASURE!

"BURNING WITH SHAME, I WATCHED THEM--SAW A BOTTLE BEING PASSED! WAS THIS PAMELA'S IDEA OF PLEASURE?"

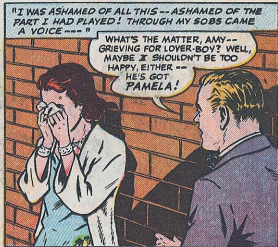
"THERE WERE OTHERS WHO SAW THEM, TOO--BUT THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE!"

OH, DEAR, HOW SIMPLY AWFUL!

IF I WAS HER MOTHER, I'D TEACH HER!

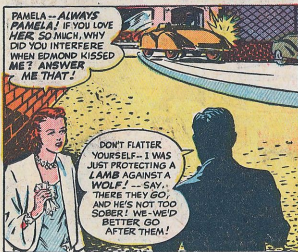


HUH? LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, PAMELA! THESE FOOLS SEEM TO INSIST ON INTRUDING ON OUR PRIVACY!



"I WAS ASHAMED OF ALL THIS--ASHAMED OF THE PART I HAD PLAYED! THROUGH MY SOBS CAME A VOICE--"

WHAT'S THE MATTER, AMY--GRIEVING FOR LOVER-BOY? WELL, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE TOO HAPPY, EITHER--HE'S GOT PAMELA!



PAMELA--ALWAYS PAMELA! IF YOU LOVE HER SO MUCH, WHY DID YOU INTERFERE WHEN EDMOND KISSED ME? ANSWER ME THAT!

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF--I WAS JUST PROTECTING A LAMB AGAINST A WOLF!--SAY--THERE THEY GO, AND HE'S NOT TOO SOBER! WE-WE'D BETTER GO AFTER THEM!



BILL--LOOK! THAT BARRIER'S DOWN, SHOWING THE BRIDGE IS OPEN--AND THEY'RE NOT STOPPING FOR IT!

"NEXT MOMENT -- DISASTER!"

HELP!

S-SAVE ME!

ME, TOO! --  
I -- I CAN'T SWIM!

I'M RIGHT  
BEHIND YOU,  
BILL!

THUD!

OH-HHH! DON'T  
LET ME -- DROWN!

HMMM! VERY  
INTERESTING -- HOW  
FAST YOU JUMPED IN  
TO SAVE YOUR  
BIG MOMENT!

I NOTICE  
YOU DIDN'T  
LOSE ANY TIME  
GOING AFTER YOUR  
HEART'S DESIRE!  
--AND IF I NEVER  
SEE YOU AGAIN,  
BILL GREGG,  
IT'LL BE  
TOO SOON!

"NEXT DAY, THE  
STORM BROKE!"

NEWS

--AND HE WAS SEEN  
NECKING IN HIS CAR  
WITH SOME GIRL LATER  
--DRINKING, TOO!

SOME GIRL?  
YOU MEAN  
AMY GRANT!

--AND THEY WERE SO  
LIT THEY DROVE RIGHT  
OFF AN OPEN BRIDGE!

PAMELA SAYS IF SHE  
HADN'T BEEN HANDY,  
AMY WOULD HAVE  
DROWNED!

SO THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME FOR ALL  
I'VE DONE FOR YA! -- GALLIVANTIN'  
AROUND IN DENS  
OF SIN --  
DRINKIN' --

BUT -- BUT IT  
ISN'T SO!  
I --

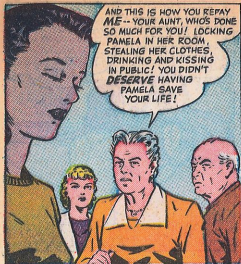
SHE  
DESERVES  
TO HAVE  
DROWNED!

THE SHAME  
OF IT ALL!

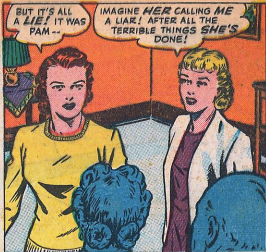
SO! I'VE  
FOUND YOU  
AT LAST!

AMY GRANT, LOCAL GIRL  
IN NIGHT CLUB BRAWL  
WITH MOVIE STAR





AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME-- YOUR AUNT, WHO'S DONE SO MUCH FOR YOU! LOCKING PAMELA IN HER ROOM, STEALING HER CLOTHES, DRINKING AND KISSING IN PUBLIC! YOU DIDN'T **DESERVE** HAVING PAMELA SAVE YOUR LIFE!



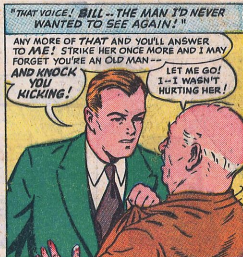
BUT IT'S ALL A **LIE!** IT WAS PAM --

IMAGINE **HER** CALLING ME A LIAR! AFTER ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS **SHE'S** DONE!



**SO--** NOT ONLY DO YOU SHAME US ALL, BUT YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO BLAME YOUR **DEAR** COUSIN PAMELA!

**ALL RIGHT, YOU! KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER!**

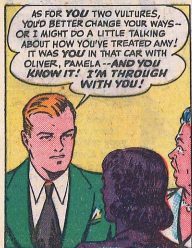


"**THAT VOICE! BILL-- THE MAN I'D NEVER WANTED TO SEE AGAIN!**"

ANY MORE OF THAT AND YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME! STRIKE HER ONCE MORE AND I MAY FORGET YOU'RE AN OLD MAN --

**AND KNOCK YOU KICKING!**

LET ME GO! I-- I WASN'T HURTING HER!



AS FOR **YOU** TWO VULTURES, YOU'D BETTER CHANGE YOUR WAYS-- OR I MIGHT DO A LITTLE TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU'VE TREATED AMY! IT WAS **YOU** IN THAT CAR WITH OLIVER, PAMELA--**AND YOU KNOW IT! I'M THROUGH WITH YOU!**

AND **YOU, AMY! I LOVED YOU ONCE--** UNTIL PAMELA TOLD ME YOU WERE MORE INTERESTED IN MOVIE HEROES THAN A PLAIN GUY LIKE ME! THAT'S WHY I TURNED TO HER! WELL, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR EDMOND OLIVER-- I CAN'T BEAT **THAT** KIND OF COMPETITION! MY CAR'S OUTSIDE AND I'M HEADED FOR NEW YORK! THIS IS -- **GOODBYE!**

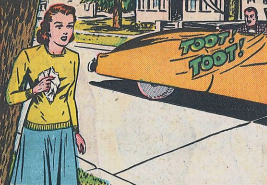


"AND THEN HE WAS GONE, LEAVING MY ACHING HEART CRYING OUT FOR HIM! I KNEW NOW, BEYOND ANY DOUBT, THAT HE WAS THE MAN FOR ME-- **NOW AND FOREVER!** I WANTED NO PUPPET FROM HOLLYWOOD'S SILVER SCREEN, NO MATTER WHAT HIS GLAMOR-- MY ARMS YEARNED FOR JUST PLAIN BILL! AGAIN I REMEMBERED HOW HE HAD FOUGHT FOR ME AT THE NIGHT CLUB, AND SUDDENLY I KNEW THAT **HE STILL LOVED ME-- JUST AS I LOVED HIM!**"



"I RUSHED OUT -- BUT HE WAS ALREADY GONE! INSTEAD..."

AMY! HI! IT'S ME--  
EDMOND OLIVER!



I-- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN EVER FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE ME -- BUT I WAS A RAT! AND THE WAY YOU SAVED MY LIFE ---

YOU CAN PAY ME BACK -- BY SAVING MY LIFE! MOVE OVER --AND HIT THE HIGHWAY TO NEW YORK, FAST!



THAT'S HIM -- THAT CAR UP AHEAD! STEP ON IT-- AND FORCE HIM TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD!



WELL, WHAT A CHARMING COUPLE -- HAD TO CATCH UP TO GLOAT OVER ME, EH? OKAY -- BUT AFTER LAST NIGHT, I'VE GOT A DEBT TO SETTLE WITH YOU, OLIVER -- AND IT'S COMING NOW!



OH, NO, BILL! -- DON'T!

OH -- SO YOU WANT TO DEFEND YOUR BOY-FRIEND, AMY! HAVE IT YOUR WAY -- BUT I GUESS YOU'VE GOT WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED!

I HAVE, BILL -- YOU!



DARLING, DARLING -- DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WAY DOWN UNDERNEATH, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN YOU THAT I LOVED? IT WAS PAMELA'S LIES THAT CAME BETWEEN US -- AND LATER, I SUPPOSE I DID TRY TO MAKE YOU JEALOUS -- BUT IF YOU'LL HAVE ME NOW ---



IF I'LL HAVE YOU! SWEETHEART, I'LL LOVE YOU -- ALWAYS ---

JUST MY BILL -- AND THAT'S ALL I'LL EVER WANT!



"And that's my story, reader! The poor relative -- the girl who'd always worn hand-me-downs! But when it came to something that REALLY counted -- TRUE LOVE -- well, I guess I was just a RICH little poor girl!"



PILOT TO  
PASSENGER:

# I LOVE YOU!

**A**LICIA CURTIS had the kind of looks that add up to romance . . . a trim figure, delightfully curved and tapered, a soft, full, well-shaped mouth, a cascade of silky auburn hair, and the most enormous, appealing gray-green eyes in the world!

All through college, she was rushed for dates. Everyone wanted to go out with Alicia, everyone from the most serious student in the mathematics major to the light-hearted Lothario who captained the football team.

No, Alicia never lacked for dates. She was offered enough romance and proposals of marriage to keep hundreds of girls happy. But Alicia Curtis had other plans.

Often, in the midnight dorn-dish sessions, when the pyjama-clad seniors would curl up and discuss their dates, Alicia would say, "Uh-uh! Not for me! I'm not saying 'yes' to the first male who waves a diamond ring at me. I've got plans . . . standards!"

That wasn't just talk, either. In her mind, Alicia carried an invisible, but definite, set of standards, a sort of test for every man she met. Was he good-looking? Tall enough? The right age? Did he have enough brain-power to make him intelligent, but enough gaiety to make him good company? What were his financial prospects? Sense of humor? Taste in clothes?

Every man she met was subjected to the test and if he didn't pass . . . one date, two dates and out! This feminine creature who looked so lovable, had an application form where her heart should be!

After graduation, Alicia fluffed out her auburn curls, tilted a small, pale blue hat over her eyes and went job-hunting. It took her exactly two days to find and land the job she wanted. It had glamor, opportunity and excitement and provided her with a small, blonde mahogany desk

between the offices of two of the best-looking junior vice-presidents in town! As secretary to Berry Raymond and Laurence James, Alicia had hit the jackpot in more ways than one.

Her mind was busy as she totalled the assets . . . an elegant advertising agency, a good job, and two eligible bachelors whose eyes lit up in appreciation every time she walked by.

It wasn't long before a triangle developed. Berry Raymond, tall, fair, attentive, brought flowers for Alicia's desk, dropped well-turned compliments into her ear, sighed after her longingly. Laurence James, tall, dark, wistful, had cold drinks sent to her desk, wrote bits of light love poetry, flashed an occasional smile of affection at her.

All this time, Alicia was busy applying her test . . . her set of high standards. And Berry was by far the winner! He had managed to let her know, in so many subtle ways, what a great guy he was. He met the specifications, all right!

As for Laurence James, Alicia could see no future with him . . . he was too easy-going, too quiet and remote. He didn't seem capable of doing the daring, wonderful things that Berry talked about, of achieving the heights that Berry would. And yet . . . and yet . . . there was something about Laurence James that made Alicia day-dream, wander off into soft moods, feel warm and cozy all over.

"This won't do at all!" she told herself sharply. "You know Berry's the man for you . . . don't let this go on! Give Mr. James the slow, gentle kind of brush-off you do so well. Don't spoil the future. . ."

Which was precisely what Alicia did. Feeling ashamed of her softer emotions where Laurence James was concerned, she assumed a cold and indifferent manner towards him, ignored his advances, smiled at him rarely.

And, as he caught the idea, and began to drift away, a chill seemed to settle down in the offices, to settle in Alicia's heart as well. Berry and Laurence began to avoid each other, for Berry was the victor. Every time Alicia would turn and catch a glimpse of Laurence's tousled dark hair, something would catch in her throat.

"But that's silly," she reminded herself. "A girl's crazy to let her feelings run her life!" And she would smile all the more, cause her gray-green eyes to sparkle more brilliantly, when Berry came around.

Perhaps Alicia would have tried to make peace between the two men, had she had time. But the triangle was becoming sharper and sharper, when the Ace Flying account intervened. One of their best accounts, Berry had gotten it by delighting the heart of the president of the Ace Aviation Company.

"I fly my own little Ace, sir," he had said. "Sure is a super job you people put out! I'll be able to handle your account with that *personal* touch!"

The president of Ace had grinned, pumped Berry's hand warmly and said, "The account's yours, son. Just be at our convention in Cleveland a week from today . . . and come *flying* in! We like all our people to use Aces for all traveling!"

And so, Berry, Alicia and Laurence planned to fly out to Cleveland. Laurence had not wanted to fly. "Train's safer and just as good," he had said shortly, when the three were making their plans.

Berry had looked at him, a slightly contemptuous curl on his lips. "Scared?" he asked.

The little plane took off shortly after dawn on a clear, crisp morning. Berry, at the controls, looked even more dashing than ever. Alicia, if she needed any reassurance, had it, as she admired Berry's clean-cut profile and competent hands. And then, fear clutched at her heart as the sky turned a lowering gray and a wall of black clouds seemed to rush at the little plane.

"Berry . . . Berry . . ." she started to

say. Her eyes widened. The fear grew deeper, more intense. For the plane, caught in a raging storm, was out of control!

"Take her down! Take her down, man!" Laurence James' voice broke the unearthly silence. "You've got too much weather to fight. *Take her down!*"

There was no understanding in Berry's face. His knuckles showed white as his hands froze on the stick, rendered motionless, powerless by fear. "He . . . he can't move!" Alicia shuddered.

"Then get off the controls! *I'll* take over!" Alicia's heart thudded as Laurence balanced himself towards Berry. "Get away from there!"

Berry did not move.

"Sorry, old man!" Laurence whispered, as his fist shot out, connecting sharply with Berry's jaw. "This will keep you out of mischief while I try to bring us down in one piece!"

Alicia wept, silently, bitterly, as Laurence James' strong, competent hands took over the controls. Zooming under the lowering cloud bank, the little Ace moved on serenely, gliding down, down, down to an easy landing.

"Laurence . . . Larry . . ." Alicia wanted to tell him something, something so important that her heart seemed to swell with it. "I'm sorry . . . you see, I thought . . . I . . ."

"I know what you thought!" he said coldly. "You thought you could add up the assets, figure out the profits, and get in on the best deal! But sometimes, your addition can be *wrong!*"

Heartbroken, feeling lost and unwanted, Alicia turned to climb out of the plane. She didn't want Berry any more. Berry was a coward. And as for Larry, he had read her like a book . . . and scorned her as she had thought she scorned him.

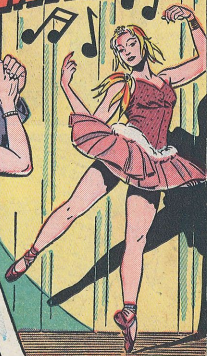
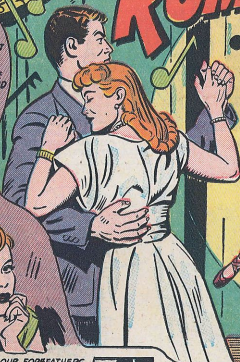
Blindly, she started to leave, when a hand gripped her shoulder. "Luckily, I can add, too!" Larry said, his lips very close to hers. "And I know what I want, too!" His lips came closer. "And I want *you*, darling!"



# DANCE of ROMANCE

"DANCING WAS ALWAYS IN MY BLOOD...AND THE RHYTHM OF MUSIC SET MY HEART TO THROBBING! BUT WHEN I FINALLY MET THE ONE MAN WHOSE LIFE-PARTNER I YEARNED TO BE...WHOSE ARMS I WANTED AROUND ME ALWAYS...I LEARNED THAT BITTER ANGUISH AND TORMENT COULD LURK BEHIND THE MUSIC OF A

**DANCE of ROMANCE!**



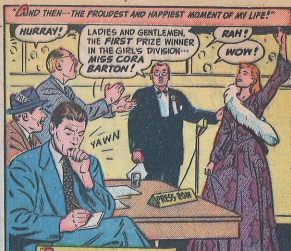
"HISTORY TELLS US OUR FOREFATHERS DANCED LIKE THIS..."



"BUT FASHIONS CHANGE, AND IT WAS AT JUKEBOX JIVE-SESSIONS LIKE THIS ONE THAT I LEARNED TO LOVE DANCING!"



MY STORY BEGINS AT THE HARVEST JAZZ FESTIVAL AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN! I WAS A THRILL AT MY FIRST BIGTIME DANCE CONTEST... FERVENTLY HOPING FOR ONE OF THE CONSOLATION PRIZES!"



"AND THEN...THE PROUDEST AND HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE!"

HURRAY! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE FIRST PRIZE WINNER IN THE GIRLS' DIVISION... MISS CORA BARTON! RAH! WOW!

YAWN

PRESS ROW

"NEXT MORNING, THE PRESS NOTICES WERE ALL GLOWINGLY WONDERFUL... EXCEPT ONE!"

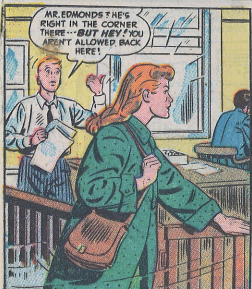
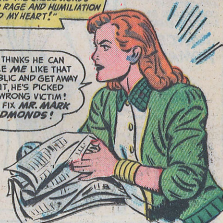


**THE DANCE BEAT**  
by MARK EDMONDS

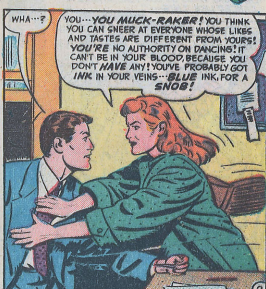
SINCE THERE WAS NO BALLET LAST NIGHT, I WANDERED OVER TO THE JAZZ FESTIVAL, WHERE A MISS CORA BARTON WON FIRST PRIZE WITH AN INFANTILE LACK OF GRACE. I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT MISS BARTON LEARNED TO DANCE AMONG THE HEADHUNTERS OF BORNEO...

"I READ THE CRUEL WORDS...AND RAGE AND HUMILIATION FILLED MY HEART!"

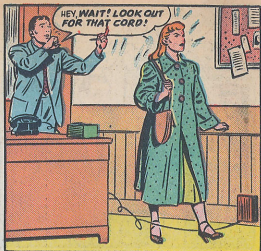
IF HE THINKS HE CAN RIDDLE ME LIKE THAT IN PUBLIC AND GET AWAY WITH IT, HE'S PICKED THE WRONG VICTIM! I'LL FIX MR. MARK EDMONDS!



MR. EDMONDS, HE'S RIGHT IN THE CORNER THERE...BUT HEY! YOU AREN'T ALLOWED BACK HERE!



WHA...? YOU...YOU MUCK-RAKER! YOU THINK YOU CAN SNEER AT EVERYONE WHOSE LIKES AND TASTES ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOURS! YOU'RE NO AUTHORITY ON DANCING! IT CAN'T BE IN YOUR BLOOD, BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY! YOU'VE PROBABLY GOT INK IN YOUR VEINS...BLUE INK, FOR A SNOB!

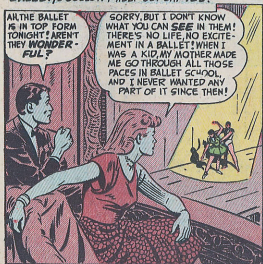


"THE HUMOR OF THE SITUATION SUDDENLY BURST UPON ME... I COULD IMAGINE HOW RIDICULOUS I MUST LOOK, SITTING ON THE FLOOR LIKE THAT! SUDDENLY HE SEEMED A WARMER, FRIENDLIER PERSON..."



"HE WAS CHARMING AT LUNCH--AND WHEN HE ASKED IF HE COULD ATONE FOR HIS COLUMN BY TAKING ME TO THE BALLET, I COULDN'T HELP BUT SAY YES!"

"I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO GET HIM TO SEE THINGS MY WAY, SO THAT HE'D NEVER AGAIN LACE INTO ANY POOR YOUNG ADDICT IN HIS COLUMN! I TOOK HIM TO A SWING-DANCE NIGHT CLUB!"





THE OLD BLAZING ANGER AT HIS SNOBBISHNESS SURGED BACK, AND I WALKED OUT ON HIM! BUT HE CAUGHT UP WITH ME OUTSIDE...

YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER TO TAKE ME HOME, MR. EDMONDS! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR SNIDE REMARKS!

GOSH CORA, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU'RE SORE! I... I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY...

DARLING...

SUDDENLY, IMPULSIVELY, HE TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS! AND BEFORE I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING, I WAS RESPONDING EAGERLY TO HIS FERVENT KISS!

HEY! IF YOU TWO YOUNG UNS ARE IN LOVE, A STREET CORNER IS NO PLACE TO TELL EACH OTHER ABOUT IT!

IN LOVE? WELL, I KNOW I AM, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER SHE--

I... THAT KISS... I DIDN'T KNOW IT UNTIL THEN, BUT I GUESS IT'S HIT ME TOO, DARLING!

CORA, YOU'RE WONDERFUL! I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THE MOMENT YOU FELL DOWN IN FRONT OF ME... BUT I NEVER DARED TO HOPE THAT YOU... CORA, WILL YOU... THAT IS, WOULD YOU...

IF THIS IS A PROPOSAL, MARK-- THE ANSWER'S YES!

THIS TIME IT WASN'T A HURRIED KISS... BUT THE REAL THING! MY HEART BEAT STRONGER... STRONGER... FOR I KNEW I'D FOUND MY MAN... FOREVER!

OH... MARK...

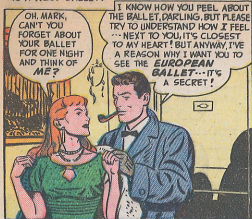
THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE FILLED WITH THRILLING EXCITEMENT! THERE WAS THE ECSTASY OF SHOPPING FOR A TROUSSEAU TOGETHER...

IT'S... LOVELY, DEAR! BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING, PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO POSTPONE THE WEDDING A WHILE... WITH MY SMALL SALARY AS A DANCE CRUISE, I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO SUPPORT YOU PROPERLY!

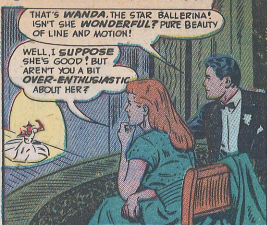
NONSENSE, MARK! I'VE STILL GOT MY JOB AS A DANCE INSTRUCTRESS! ANYWAY, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BUY ME CLOTHES LIKE THIS!

YOU HEDD EDDEN OND UN TE LDD

"THEN ONE NIGHT, MARK ASKED ME TO GO WITH HIM TO A NEW BALLET!"



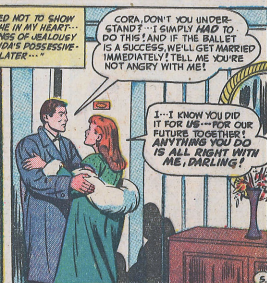
"CURIOUS ABOUT THE SECRET, I AGREED TO GO!"



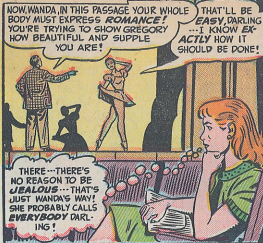
"AFTER THE SHOW, MARK TOOK ME BACK-STAGE..."



"I TRIED NOT TO SHOW THE ACHE IN MY HEART... THE PAINS OF JEALOUSY AT WANDA'S POSSESSIVENESS! LATER..."



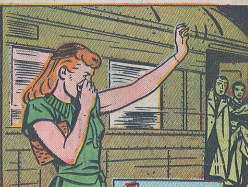
"I BEGAN COMING TO THE REHEARSALS EVERY DAY...I COULDN'T STAY AWAY!"



"FINALLY, THE TIME CAME FOR MARK AND THE BALLET TO LEAVE FOR THE OUT-OF-TOWN TRYOUTS..."



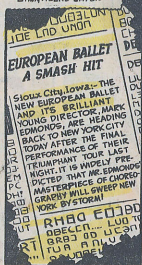
"AS THE TRAIN PULLED OUT, I HAD A STRANGE FOREBODING THAT EACH MILE HE TRAVELED WOULD TAKE HIM FURTHER FROM ME...AND CLOSER TO WANDA'S ARMS!"



"I'VE PASSED, BUT THE IMAGE OF MARK WAS ALWAYS IN MY MIND AND HEART...AND I TRIED TO BELIEVE THAT HE, TOO, COULD NOT FORGET OUR LOVE!"



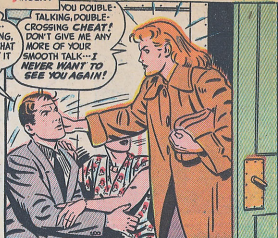
"TWO WEEKS LATER..."





"**HE** THREW OPEN THE DOOR TO HIS COMPARTMENT--AND REELED BACK IN HORROR! I FELT THE WORLD DISSOLVING BENEATH MY FEET..."

"**THEN** ANGUISH AND HEARTBREAK GAVE WAY TO A COLD, RAGING ANGER!"



"**HEARTBROKEN AND BLINDED BY TEARS, I REACHED THE VESTIBULE--ONLY TO FIND THAT WANDA HAD FOLLOWED ME!**"



**I** CLUTCHED AT A HAND GRIP...HELD TIGHT! BUT WANDA'S MOMENTUM CARRIED HER FORWARD!"

OH-HH!



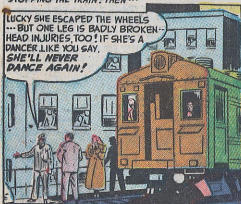
**NEXT MOMENT...**

**HELP!  
HELP!**



**S**OMEBODY AT ONE OF THE TRAIN WINDOWS SAW HER FALL, AND PULLED THE EMERGENCY CORD, STOPPING THE TRAIN! THEN..."

LUCKY SHE ESCAPED THE WHEELS...BUT ONE LEG IS BADLY BROKEN...HEAD INJURIES, TOO! IF SHE'S A DANCER LIKE YOU SAY, SHE'LL NEVER DANCE AGAIN!



SHE...SHE PUSHED ME, MARK, AND I ALMOST WENT OUT! I GRABBED HOLD AND THEN SHE LOST HER BALANCE AND...

A LIKELY STORY! YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER LYING ABOUT IT, CORA...YOU PUSHED HER FROM THE TRAIN OUT OF JEALOUSY! THIS TIME I'M TALKING...I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



**I**T WAS A NIGHT OF MISERY, OF ANGUISHED HEARTBREAK! A FEW SHORT HOURS AGO, THERE HAD BEEN ONLY LOVE...BUT...NOW...

I CAN'T BLAME MARK...HE'S BEEN GUILTY IN ALL THIS, AND APPEARANCES WERE AGAINST ME! IT'S MY FAULT, MY FAULT...OH, IF I HAD ONLY TRUSTED HIM!



**I**T WAS THE BEGINNING OF A NIGHTMARE PERIOD FOR ME! MY GRIEF AND ANGUISH WERE ALWAYS WITH ME, EVEN ON MY JOB...

MISS BARTON, SOME OF YOUR PUPILS HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT YOU--THEY SAY YOU'RE GLOOMY, INATTENTIVE, DISAGREEABLE TO BE WITH! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, BUT UNLESS YOU CHANGE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO!



**Then...**

**YOU COULD  
EUROPEAN BALLET  
OPENING TONIGHT**

NEW YORK: MARK EDMONDS' EUROPEAN BALLET OPENS TONIGHT ON SCHEDULE, DESPITE THE LOSS OF ITS STAR BALLERINA. A YOUNG UNDERSTUDY WILL DANCE THE LEAD ROLE...

**BEAUFORT**

**THAT  
OPENING LURED  
ME LIKE A MAGNET  
--I COULDN'T STAY  
AWAY! FOR MARK'S SAKE  
--I PRAYED IT WOULD  
BE A  
SUCCESS!"**

"That night..."



"WORRIED, I MADE MY WAY BACK-STAGE! THE STAGE-MANAGER KNEW ME... BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT MARK AND I HAD BROKEN UP!"

WHAT'S WRONG, PETER?



OH, HELLO, MISS BARTON -- **EVERY-THING'S WRONG!** WANDA'S STAND-IN JUST CAME UP WITH THE WORST CASE OF STAGEFRIGHT I'VE EVER SEEN... SHE'S HYSTERICAL! THE SHOW CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT HER! AND MARK ISN'T HERE, EITHER! HE WAS CALLED TO THE HOSPITAL... WANDA TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE!

"MARK'S BALLET... HEADED FOR RUIN! I SAW HIS HOPES AND FUTURE BLASTED... AND IT WAS ALL MY FAULT! IF THERE WAS ONLY SOMETHING I COULD DO TO MAKE UP FOR THE HARM I'D CAUSED HIM... AND THEN, SUDDENLY, I KNEW WHAT I WOULD HAVE TO DO!"

LISTEN, PETER, I'M GOING ON IN WANDA'S PLACE!



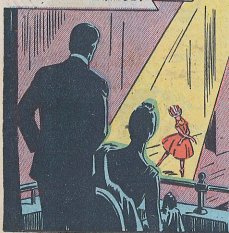
YOU??? NOW EVERYONE'S GONE CRAZY! YOU'RE A JAZZ-DANCER... HOW CAN YOU PINCH-HIT IN A BALLET LEAD?

YES, I'M A JAZZ-DANCER BY PREFERENCE, BUT I'M SOMETHING **MORE** THAN THAT... A **NATURAL** DANCER! I TOOK BALLET TRAINING WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND WHAT'S MORE, I ATTENDED ENOUGH REHEARSALS SO THAT I **KNOW** WANDA'S ROUTINES BY HEART!

WELL, OKAY! WELL BOTH BE LAUGHED OUT OF TOWN BY TOMORROW, BUT THAT'S BETTER THAN CALLING OFF THE PERFORMANCE ENTIRELY!



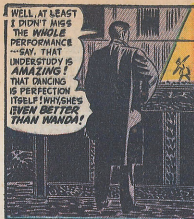
"THIS WOULD BE THE LEAST I COULD DO FOR MARK, FOR MY LOVE! THIS WOULD BE MY DANCE OF ROMANCE!"



WITH EVERY UNFAMILIAR STEP, A PRAYER, COULD I... GO THROUGH WITH IT? I KNEW I HAD TO, HAD TO... BECAUSE THIS WAS GOING TO BE A MONUMENT TO MY LOVE FOR MARK... A MONUMENT TO A LOVE THAT COULD NEVER BE!"



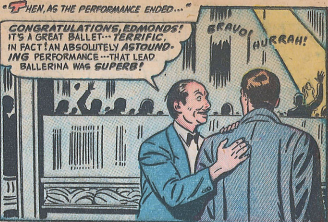




WELL, AT LEAST  
I DIDN'T MISS  
THE **WHOLE**  
PERFORMANCE  
...SAY THAT  
UNDERSTUDY IS  
**AMAZING!**  
THAT DANCING  
IS PERFECT  
ITSELF! WHY, SHE'S  
**EVEN BETTER  
THAN WANDA!**

**"THEN, AS THE PERFORMANCE ENDED..."**

**CONGRATULATIONS, EDMONDS!**  
IT'S A GREAT BALLET... **TERRIFIC.**  
IN FACT! AN **ABSOLUTELY ASTOUND-**  
ING PERFORMANCE... THAT LEAD  
BALLERINA WAS **SUPERB!**



**BRavo! HURRAH!**

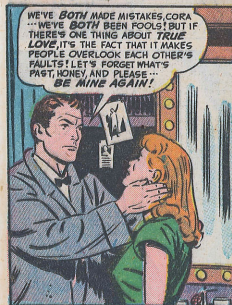


ALL RIGHT, LET ME  
THROUGH SO I CAN  
CONGRATULATE THE  
BEST!... **WHA...?**  
**CORA!!**

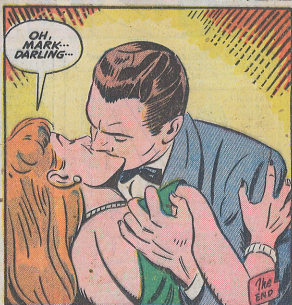
I... I'M SORRY, MARK...  
I HADN'T MEANT FOR YOU TO  
SEE ME! I WANTED TO DO  
THIS BEFORE I WENT OUT  
OF YOUR LIFE FOREVER!...  
I HOPED IT WOULD MAKE  
YOU FORGIVE ME A LITTLE  
FOR DISTRICTING YOU  
...EVEN IF IT COULDN'T  
RESTORE OUR LOVE...



**DON'T GO, CORA!**  
LISTEN... AT THE HOSPITAL,  
I LEARNED THAT THE CRISIS  
HAD PASSED AND THAT WANDA  
WOULD RECOVER! BUT IN HER  
DELIRIUM, SHE BLURTED OUT  
THE WHOLE STORY OF WHAT  
HAPPENED ON THE TRAIN...  
SO I'M EQUALLY TO BLAME  
FOR NOT TRUSTING YOU,  
FOR NOT BELIEVING YOUR  
SIDE OF THE STORY!

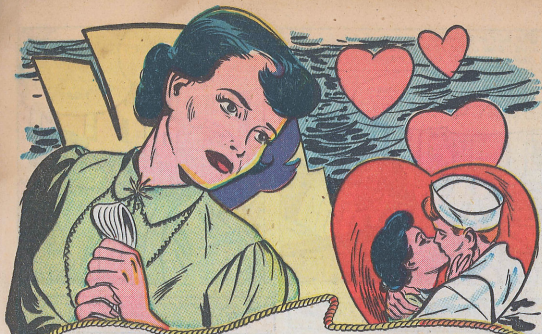


WE'VE **BOTH** MADE MISTAKES, CORA  
...WE'VE **BOTH** BEEN FOOLS! BUT IF  
THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT **TRUE**  
**LOVE**, IT'S THE FACT THAT IT MAKES  
PEOPLE OVERLOOK EACH OTHER'S  
FAULTS! LET'S FORGET WHAT'S  
PAST, HONEY, AND PLEASE...  
**BE MINE AGAIN!**



**OH,  
MARK...  
DARLING...**

**THE  
END**



**THE FLEET'S IN!** ...MAGIC WORDS THAT TELL OF FAST-BEATING HEARTS AND CAREFREE HAPPINESS! BUT SOMETIMES THERE ARE TEARS, TOO, AND THE SOUL-SEARING ANGUISH THAT CAN COME TO A GIRL WHO'S

# A Sailor's Sweetheart

**IT ALL BEGAN ON A SUNNY DAY IN JUNE, WHEN MARY AMBERS RECEIVED THAT FATEFUL CALL...**

I PROMISED YOU A GOOD TIME IF YOU CAME TO VISIT ME, JILL... **AND THIS IS IT!** I'VE JUST ARRANGED A DATE FOR US WITH A COUPLE OF SAILORS!

**SAILORS!** BUT... BUT THEY GO FOR THAT GIRL-IN-EVERY-PORT STUFF, MARY... AND I'M NOT EXACTLY THE TYPE FOR THAT!

GET DRESSED, YOU DODO, AND FORGET IT... WE'RE ONLY GOING ON A PICNIC, ANYWAY! THAT WAS TONY THAT CALLED, AND I **KNOW** HIM... HE'S A GOOD GUY, FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY!

BUT YOU **DON'T** KNOW WHOM HE'S BRINGING FOR ME... **AND THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT!**



**BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I MET JAKE MILLER! JUST ONE LOOK AT HIS SHY, BOYISH FACE... AND I KNEW THAT ALL MY FEARS HAD BEEN NEEDLESS!"**

**SO THAT'S JILL, EH? MEET JAKE... A LITTLE BASHFUL, BUT THE BEST DURN DECK-SWABBER IN UNCLE SAM'S NAVY!"**

HI, JILL...



**GOLLY, I KNOW I OUGHTA BE MAKING CONVERSATION... BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU!**

**THEN... THEN LET ME START IT! IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT YOU SAILORS... A GIRL IN EVERY PORT?**



**"I WAS JUST TALKING TO BREAK THE ICE, BUT MY HEART POUNDED STRANGELY AS I AWAITED HIS ANSWER!"**

WELL, YOU SEE, JILL, I DON'T USUALLY... UH... THAT IS...

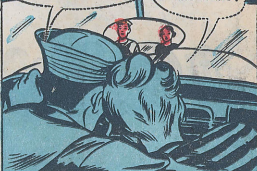
**WHAT LOVER-BOYS TRYING TO TELL YOU IS THAT HE'S THE QUIET TYPE, HONEY... HE DOESN'T BOTHER WITH GALS MUCH! I EVEN HAD TROUBLE TALKING HIM INTO THIS DATE!**



**"I RELAXED THEN, WITH AN ODD FEELING OF SATISFACTION! AS THE CAR SPED INTO THE SUBURBAN HILLS..."**

**HEY, WHAT GIVES BACK THERE? THEY STILL STRANGERS?**

**I KNOW WHAT'LL FIX THAT! HIT A BUMP... AND HARD!**



**A CHANCE COLLISION, THAT WAS ALL... BUT AS WE WERE HURLED TOGETHER, I FELT JAKE'S ARMS TIGHTEN AROUND ME! NEXT MOMENT..."**

OH!



**JEEPERS, JILL, I... I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME! PLEASE... SAY YOU'RE NOT MAD!**

**IT WAS KIND OF... WELL, SUDDEN, WASN'T IT? BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME BEING SORE! YOU SEE, I... LIKED IT!**





"I WAS SHOCKED BY THE DARING OF MY OWN WORDS! COULD THIS BE JILL BOOTH, WHO'D ALWAYS BEEN SO PROPER? IT WAS AS IF JAKE HAD CAST A SPELL OVER ME... A SWEET SPELL WHICH CLUNG THROUGHOUT THE AFTER-NOON..."



HOWDEYA LIKE THAT? NEITHER OF 'EM HEARD A WORD WE'VE BEEN SAYING TO 'EM!

SH-HHH! THEY'RE JAKE AND JILL... FAR AWAY IN LOVELAND! LEAVE 'EM ALONE!



I'M KIND OF A FOUL BALL, JILL... I CAN'T SEEM TO PUT WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO YOU INTO WORDS! SOMETIMES I WISH I WAS SURE OF MYSELF... MORE LIKE TONY...

I... I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT LIKE TONY... I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE! IF YOU WERE FRESH AND SMART-ALECKY ABOUT US, I... I COULDN'T STAND...



"THE REST OF THE DAY FLED IN A SHIMMERING HAZE OF DELIGHT! FOR A BOY AND A GIRL HAD FOUND EACH OTHER... AND WERE LOST IN THE MIRACLE OF NEWBORN LOVE!"



NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE, HONEY! IT'S CRAZY...WE'VE ONLY JUST MET-- BUT I'M HEAD-OVER-HEELS ABOUT YOU!

THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES...THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE WHEN YOU SAY IT... PLEASE DON'T STOP...EVER!



I CAN STILL REMEMBER THAT WONDERFUL TRIP BACK TO THE CITY, WITH TONY'S CAR SEEMING TO GLIDE ON ROSE-COLORED CLOUDS!"

YOU'LL SEE ME AGAIN TONIGHT, SWEETHEART...TONY'S TAKING US TO HIT THE BROADWAY HOT-SPOTS! MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND SOMEBODY LIKE HIM...INSTEAD OF A POOR GUY LIKE ME!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE AS POOR AS A CHURCH MOUSE! I'M HAPPY TO BE JUST A SAILOR'S SWEETHEART--IF YOU'RE THE SAILOR, JAKE!



"THEN CAME THE DRAGGING HOURS UNTIL I SHOULD SEE HIM ONCE MORE..."

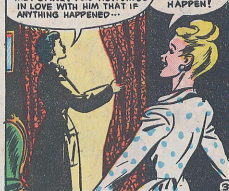
THERE IT IS... HIS SHIP! HE'S ON IT NOW, BUT I'LL SEE HIM SOON!... DO YOU KNOW I'M THINKING ABOUT YOU, JAKE DARLING?

GET ON YOUR CLOTHES, WILL YOU, DOPE? THEY'LL BE HERE SOON!



OH... MARY! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT... I MUST BE IN A DAZE! FUNNY, I'VE HAD LOTS OF DATES BEFORE... BUT I NEVER GAVE BOYS A SECOND THOUGHT UNTIL I MET JAKE! AND NOW I'M SO IN LOVE WITH HIM THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED...

C'MON DOWN TO EARTH, BUTTERCUP! AS IF ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN!

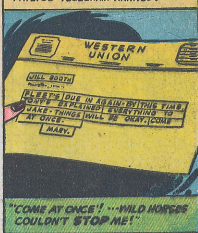




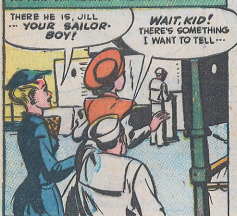
"I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!" WITH THESE WORDS, MY DREAM OF LOVE ENDED! WITH NOTHING LEFT BUT GRIEF AND HEARTBREAK, I RETURNED HOME... AND STROVE TO FORGET MEN FOREVER!"



"YES, MAN-HATER... UNTIL THAT FATEFUL TELEGRAM ARRIVED!"



"MY BEATING HEART COUNTED THE MOMENTS UNTIL I REACHED NEW YORK AGAIN! IT WAS VISITORS' DAY ABOARD THE NAVY SHIPS..."



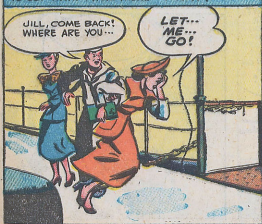
"OH, JAKE, DARLING!"



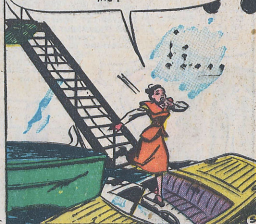
"I HAD HOPED TO HEAR WORDS OF LOVE, OF TENDER HAPPINESS! BUT INSTEAD..."



"IT WAS AS IF MY LIFE HAD ENDED, AND ONLY BLASTED HOPES REMAINED! I KNEW THAT I HAD TO GET AWAY FROM THERE... AWAY!"



"I... I NEVER WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN! THERE'S... NOTHING LEFT FOR ME!"





"OUT... OUT INTO THE OPEN SEA!"

IT'S GETTING... ROUGHER! BUT THAT'S WHAT I WANT! ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN GOING BACK TO AN EMPTY LIFE!



SOMEONE'S AFTER ME! IF... IF I CAN ONLY GET SOME MORE SPEED OUT OF THIS CRATE...

AVAST, THERE! KEEP CLEAR! YOU'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR US!

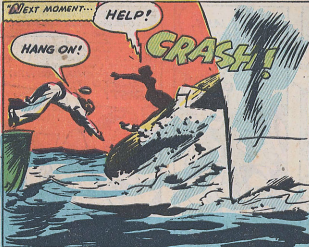


NEXT MOMENT...

HELP!

HANG ON!

CRASH!



THE WATERS CLOSED OVER MY HEAD AND UNCONSCIOUSNESS CLAIMED ME! I DIDN'T FEEL THE STRONG ARMS WHICH SEIZED ME, DREW ME TO THE SURFACE!

GOOD WORK, SAILOR! IS... IS SHE ALIVE?

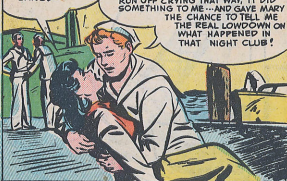
I THINK SO... BUT LET'S GET HER TO LAND QUICKLY!



SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, I CAME TO, HATING THE UNKNOWN RESCUER WHO HAD RESTORED ME TO A LIFE WHICH COULD HOLD ONLY PAIN! I OPENED MY EYES TO... JAKE!

WHY DID YOU... DO IT? IT WASN'T AS IF... YOU CARED...

LADY, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE THE PRIZE TURNED FOOL IN HISTORY? I NEVER LET TONY TELL ME THE REAL STORY! BUT WHEN I SAW YOU RUN OFF CRYING THAT WAY, IT DID SOMETHING TO ME... AND GAVE MARY THE CHANCE TO TELL ME THE REAL LOWDOWN ON WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT NIGHT CLUB!

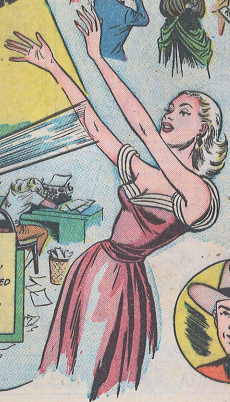


TEARS NO LONGER... THERE WERE STARS IN MY EYES! WE LOOKED AT EACH OTHER FOR A MOMENT... HAPPILY... AND KNEW THAT A SAILOR'S SWEETHEART HAD COME HOME! IT WAS JAKE AND JILL... FOREVER!



# ROMEO of the RANCH

"IT'S A FAR CRY FROM A CULTURED AND LOVELY AUTHORESS TO A RUGGED RIDER OF THE RANGE, ISN'T IT? NOT MUCH CHANCE, THEN, THAT DIANA MORRISON COULD ACCEPT THE LOVE OF A SIMPLE, UNTUTORED COWBOY! IT WAS QUITE A JOKE ON TEK RANDALL... SO GO AHEAD AND LAUGH, DIANA! LAUGH... BUT YOU'D BETTER WIPE THAT TEAR AWAY FIRST!"



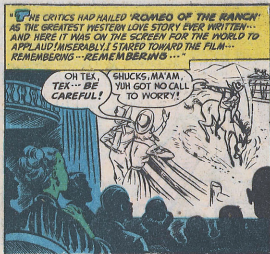
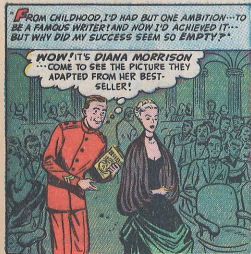
FROM CHILDHOOD, I'D HAD BUT ONE AMBITION... TO BE A FAMOUS WRITER! AND NOW I'D ACHIEVED IT... BUT WHY DID MY SUCCESS SEEM SO EMPTY?"

WOW! IT'S DIANA MORRISON...  
...COME TO SEE THE PICTURE THEY  
ADAPTED FROM HER BEST-  
SELLER!

"THE CRITICS HAD HAILED 'ROMEO OF THE RANCH' AS THE GREATEST WESTERN LOVE STORY EVER WRITTEN... AND HERE IT WAS ON THE SCREEN FOR THE WORLD TO APPLAUD! MISERABLY, I STARED TOWARD THE FILM... REMEMBERING... REMEMBERING..."

OH TEK,  
TEK... BE  
CAREFUL!

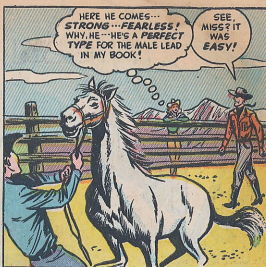
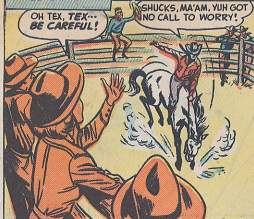
SHUCKS, MA'AM,  
YUH GOT NO CALL  
TO WORRY!



"I REMEMBER HOW IT REALLY HAD BEEN...HOW, AS AN UNKNOWN YOUNG WRITER, I HAD JOURNEYED TO ARIZONA, SEEKING MATERIAL FOR THE WESTERN LOVE NOVEL I PLANNED..."

OH TEX, TEX...  
BE CAREFUL!

SHUCKS, MA'AM, YUH GOT  
NO CALL TO WORRY!



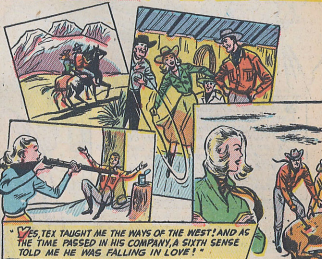
HERE HE COMES...  
STRONG...FEARLESS!  
WHY, HE...HE'S A PERFECT  
TYPE FOR THE MALE LEAD  
IN MY BOOK!

SEE,  
MISS? IT  
WAS  
EASY!

"IF ONLY I COULD GET CLOSE TO HIM...  
STUDY HIM! BUT NOW? IT WAS TEX WHO  
GAVE ME THE SOLUTION..."

GUESS YUH DON'T KNOW MUCH  
ABOUT THE WEST, HUH?...  
SAY, MEBBE I COULD TEACH  
YUH!

WHY, THAT WOULD  
BE JUST...SWELL!



"YES, TEX TAUGHT ME THE WAYS OF THE WEST! AND AS  
THE TIME PASSED IN HIS COMPANY, A SIXTH SENSE  
TOLD ME HE WAS FALLING IN LOVE!"

"TEX AND ME...IT WAS RIDICULOUS! BUT I HAD TO FIND OUT  
ABOUT A COWBOY...AND ROMANCE! PERHAPS I LED HIM ON..."

DANCIN' WITH YUH...HAVIN' YUH IN  
MY ARMS THIS WAY...IT'S GIVEN  
ME THE COURAGE TO TELL YUH  
SOMETHIN'! LET'S...GO OUTSIDE,  
HUH?

HERE IT COMES!  
EVERYTHING HE SAYS AND  
DOES...I'LL REMEMBER  
IT FOR MY BOOK!

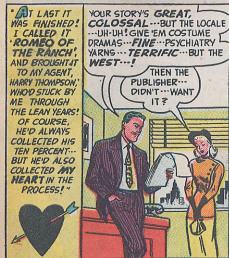
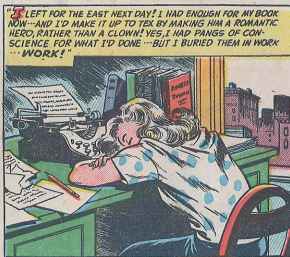
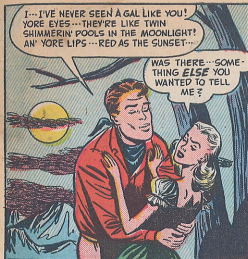


DIANA...DARLIN'...  
EVER SINCE I SAW  
YUH, I CAN'T GET  
YUH OUT OF MY  
MIND! YUH'VE  
GOTTEN TO  
MEAN GO  
MUCH TO  
ME...

YES...  
GO ON...







SENT THE TELEGRAM---FEELING LIKE A CHEAP LOWDOWN FRAUD!! ALMOST WISHED TEX WOULDN'T COME---BUT SOMEHOW, I KNEW HE WOULD! AND SO---A FEW DAYS LATER---

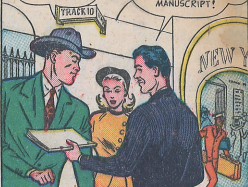


YORE TELEGRAM DIDN'T CONVINCE ME ALL THE WAY, DIANA---BUT I'M HERE AIMIN' TO FIND OUT!

THE NAME'S HARRY THOMPSON, SON---DIANA'S AGENT! YOU LOVE DIANA, DON'T YOU---YOU WANT TO HELP HER! OKAY, WE'RE THROWING A LITTLE PARTY FOR THE BOOK PEOPLE, AND YOU'VE GOT TO BE THERE!

SO THAT'S IT---ANOTHER OF YORE CHEAP TRICKS! YUH WANT TO SHOW 'EM I'M JUST AS RIDICULOUS AS THE WAY YUH WROTE IT IN YORE STORY, HUH?!

NOW DON'T GET ALL HET UP! DIANA'S NUTS ABOUT YOU---SHE TOLD ME! IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT, READ HOW SHE'S DESCRIBED YOU IN THIS MANUSCRIPT!



IS---IS HE TELLIN' THE TRUTH? YUH HAVEN'T MADE A CLOWN OF ME IN YORE BOOK? WHAT'S IN THERE IS YORE REAL FEELIN'S?

WHY---WHY, OF COURSE...

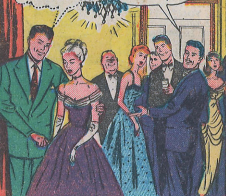


I COULD FEEL MY CONSCIENCE CRYING OUT WITHIN ME AGAIN! THERE WAS HARRY, THE MAN I LOVED, LYING---AND THE SIMPLE HONESTY OF TEX'S EYES STABBED ME LIKE A KNIFE! THIS PLAN---IT WAS SCHEMING, UNDERHAND! BUT I COULDN'T STOP IT---IT WAS TOO LATE! THAT NIGHT, AT THE PARTY---



I'VE READ YORE STORY, DARLIN', AN' GOLLY---I---I NEVER DREAMED YUH LOVED ME THAT MUCH!

THERE THEY ARE, FOLKS! REAL LIVE LOVERS---RIGHT OUT OF THE BOOK!



I WANTED TO TELL TEX IT WASN'T SO---BUT HARRY CUT ME SHORT!...

DRINK? NO, THANKS... AIN'T NEVER GOT THE HABIT, SOMEHOW!

NONSENSE! THIS WON'T HURT YOU---IT'S JUST LEMONADE!



SPUT---ARGH!...YUH SHORE MAKE FUNNY LEMONADE IN THE EAST, PARDNER!

HAW-HAW!

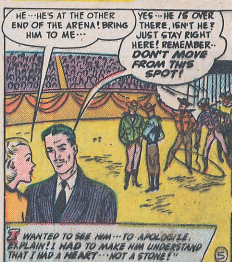
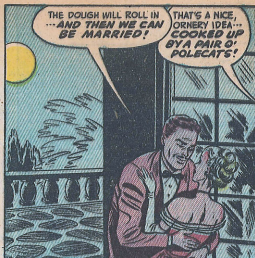
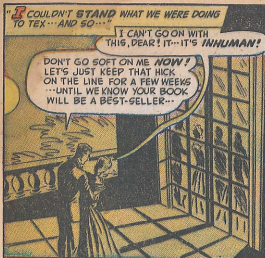
HARRY! DIANA!...GOT A MINUTE?



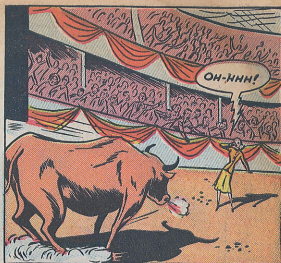
THE PAPER'S WILL EAT ALL THIS UP! I'LL PUBLISH "ROMEO OF THE RANCH"--AND WE'LL SELL A MILLION COPIES!

IT WORKED FINE, EH? JUST ONE OF MY SENSATIONAL IDEAS!

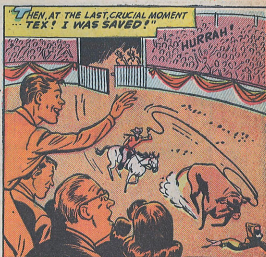
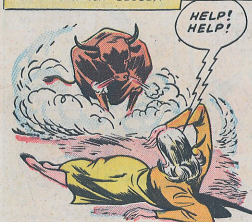


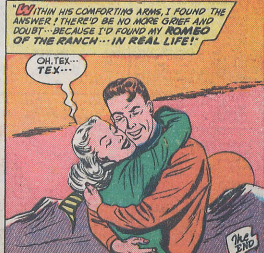
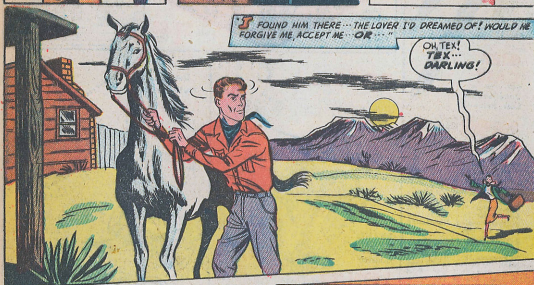
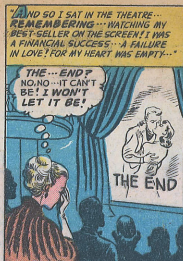






**T**HE BULL WAS ALMOST UPON ME! I TRIED TO RUN... TRIPPED... FELT MYSELF FALL! THE DEAFENING HOOF-BEATS GREW CLOSER... CLOSER...

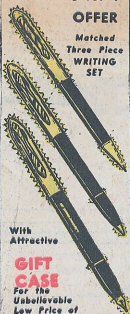




# AMAZING

3 for 1  
OFFER

Matched  
Three Piece  
WRITING  
SET



With  
Attractive

## GIFT CASE

For the  
Unbelievable  
Low Price of

**\$1.98** Complete

### FOUNTAIN PEN

Streamlined, Precision HOODED POINT. Writes Velvet Smooth. Fine or Bold, as you wish. Sturdy Construction. Of Shining Plastic with GOLD Type Metal Cap. Holds Full Supply Ink. Lever Filler Fills Pen to Top Without Pumping. Non-leaking Steady Ink-flow.

### POINT PEN

Same Streamlined Construction as Fountain Pen. BALL POINT Identically Composed with High Priced Pens. Rolls Wet Ink on to Paper Dry as You Write. Can Make Carbon Copies. Ideal for Keeping Records at Home or in School. Guaranteed for One Year.

### MECHANICAL PENCIL

Matches Fountain Pen, and Ball-Point Grip Standard Lead. Just a Twist Propels, Repels. Comes with Eraser and Extra Supply of LEAD. Mechanically Perfect and Should Last a Lifetime.

**TEN DAY FREE TRIAL**  
Set For Complete Refund.  
SEND NO MONEY... RUSH  
COUPON.

### MICHAEL PRODUCTS

246 Fifth Ave., Dept. A-10  
New York 1, N. Y.

Please send me on 10-day trial... 3 pc. writing Set(s) in gift box.

☐ Enclosed find money order  
☐ Cash, for \$1.98 ea. I save postage.  
☐ Send C.O.D., I save postage.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

# New Sensation! The HUBBA-HUBBA Wallet



Matching HUBBA-HUBBA BELT

# FREE

With every order, flexible, patent finish to match the sensational new wallet. Never before featured. So the first to wear one.



Colors:  
• Red  
• Green  
• Black  
• Brown

Only **\$1.68**  
Plus Tax

## BE THE FIRST TO OWN ONE!

All the latest litterbug savings combined with Durable utility for practical use.

- All way round zipper
- Attached beaded keychain
- 8 transparent windows
- Coin holder for change
- Fully lined pocket for bills
- Identification pocket & insert
- Extra pocket for cards

Michael Products, Dept. A-6, 246 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.

Enclosure and **MONEY ORDER** ☐

CHECK ☐ I save postage.

For \$1.68 plus 32¢ tax total \$2.00

Send C.O.D. I will pay postage.

My size of free belt is: quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Color I want \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

## FREE

With every order a gorgeous pair of matching drop earrings with beautifully cut stones. Retail value, \$2.98.



SIMULATED  
DIAMOND  
FRENCH  
FILIGREE

## LAVALIER

22 Kt. Gold Plated. Contains 89 glittering stones with a beautiful 22 Kt. Gold plated curb chain and safety catch. This lovely Lavalier & Sarring set is currently selling in leading jewelry and department stores from \$15 up. Packed in a gift box. Send money order for \$2.98, we pay postage, or order C.O.D. plus postage.

**MONEY BACK** thoroughly delighted.

**JEWEL, INC.**  
246 Fifth Ave., Dept. A-6, New York 1, N. Y.

## 22 Karat Gold Plated Hand Engraved IDENTIFICATION



## BRACELET

Your own name in Old English Script, engraved on incl. this beautiful tax bracelet with gold plated curved link chain and safety catch, for this never before low selling price. Send name you desire on bracelet with order. Send check or money order, we pay postage, or order C. O. D. plus postage.

**\$1.29**  
Plus Tax  
JEWEL, Inc., 246 Fifth Ave., Dept. A-14  
NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

## DAZZLING Mother of Pearl

## LOCKETS

Your choice of either one of these beautiful lockets.

A. Tiny GOLD plated Crucifix mounted on iridescent Mother of Pearl and gold plated locket. Attached to delicate link chain.

B. Beautiful hand painted on Mother of Pearl, set on 14 kt. GOLD plated heart shaped locket, attached to gold plated Bow Pin.



Both have unique method of inside opener for pictures.

Either One **\$1.49** incl. tax

## JEWEL, Inc., Dept. A-12

246 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.

Locket I want - A ☐ B ☐

☐ Enclosed Check, M. O. you pay postage.

☐ Send C. O. D. plus postage.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_



Let's Go, Pal!  
I'll prove I can make YOU

Now  
**ALL 5 FAMOUS  
JOWETT  
COURSES**

in 1 COMPLETE MUSCLE BUILDING **Volume**

PLUS  
MY PHOTO BOOK OF  
FAMOUS STRONG MEN!

For only

**FREE!**

**25¢**

"The Jowett System is the greatest in the world!" says R. F. Kelly, Physical Director, Atlantic City

**FAST**—or it won't cost you a cent—  
says George F. Jowett—World's Greatest Body Builder

HOW YOU CAN BE A **WINNER** AT ANYTHING YOU TACKLE WITH **PROGRESSIVE POWER**



Enjoy My "Progressive Power"  
Strength Secrets!  
Give me 10 Easy Minutes a  
Day—Without Strain!

I'll teach you the "Progressive Power Method" through which I rebuilt myself from a physical wreck the doctors condemned to die of 15, to the holder of more strength records than any other living athlete or teacher! "Progressive Power" has proven its ability to build the strongest, handsomest men in the world. And I stand ready to show you on a money back basis—that no matter how flabby or puny you are I can do the same for you right in your own home. Let me prove I can add inches to your arms, broaden your shoulders, give you a man-sized chest, powerful legs and a Rock-like back—in fact, power pack your whole body so quickly it will amaze you! Yes, I'll am you with power and self-confidence to master any situation—to win popularity—and to get ahead on the job! Through my proven secrets I bring to life new power in you inside and out, until YOU are fully satisfied you are the man you want to be.

**BUILD A BODY  
YOU WILL BE PROUD OF!**  
I am making a drive for thousands of  
new friends fast—REGARDLESS OF COST!  
So Get Now My 5 (Valued at \$5 each) Muscle Building Courses  
All in 1 great complete volume for ONLY

**25¢**  
PACKED WITH HOW-TO-DO-IT PICTURES!

At last all 5 of Jowett's, World-Famous Muscle-Building Courses are available in one great complete volume to thousands of readers of this publication at the "best-sequestered", extremely low price of only 25¢! You owe it to your country, to your family and to yourself to make yourself physically fit now! Start at once to improve your physique by following Jowett's simple, easy method of muscle building!



Just a Few of the Records of  
**George F. Jowett**

- whom experts call the "Champion of Champions"
- World's welter weight wrestling champion at 17
- World's weight lifting champion at 19
- Reputed to have the strongest arms in the world
- Four times winner of the world's most perfectly developed body... plus many, many other world records!

**PROVE IT TO YOURSELF IN ONE NIGHT**

Send only 25¢ for my 5 easy-to-follow, picture-packed courses now in 1 complete volume "How to Become a Muscular He-Man." Try it for one night! Experience the thrilling strength that surges through your muscles.

**READ WHAT THESE FAMOUS PUPILS SAY ABOUT JOWETT. WHY DON'T YOU FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS!**

**A. PASSAMONT**  
Jowett-trained athlete who was named America's first prize-winner for Physical Perfection.



**REX FERRIS**  
Champion Strength Athlete of South Africa. Says he: "I owe everything to Jowett method! Look at this chest—then consider the voice of the Jowett Course!"



**10 DAY TRIAL!**

Think of it—all five of these famous courses now in one picture-packed volume for only 25¢. If you're not delighted with this famous muscle-building guide—if you don't actively FEEL results within ONE WEEK, send it back and your money will be promptly refunded!

Send for Jowett's Photo Book of Famous Strong Men! This amazing book has guided thousands of weaklings to muscular power. Packed with photos of miracle men of might and muscle who started perhaps weaker than you are. Read the thrilling adventures of Jowett, the strength that inspired his pupils to follow him. They'll show you the best way to might and muscle. Send for FREE gift book of PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG MEN.

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL CULTURE Dept. AM-98 220 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 1,

**FREE!**



**FREE GIFT COUPON!**

Dept.  
**AM 98**

**JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL CULTURE**  
220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.  
Dear George: Please send by return mail, prepaid, FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men, along with all 5 Muscle Building Courses, 1. Molding a Mighty Chest, 2. Molding a Mighty Arm, 3. Molding a Mighty Grip, 4. Molding a Mighty Back, 5. Molding Mighty Legs—New all in one volume "How to Become a Muscular He-Man". Enclosed find 25¢. NO C.O.D.'S.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Plainly, Include Zone Number)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

# Send Secret Messages With The

# LONE RANGER

## SILVER BULLET BALL PEN SET



An Everlast Product

TRY IT OUT FOR 10 DAYS FREE!

WEAR IT ON YOUR  
BELT—WRITE YOUR  
OWN SECRET  
CODES!

HEY kids, here's your chance to get the Lone Ranger's own Silver Bullet-Pen Set! Three smooth-writing pens—each one shaped just like the silver bullets the Lone Ranger has in his gun belt! Each pen writes a different color—BLUE, RED, GREEN—and each one writes up to three years! But that isn't all! Besides these three secret code pens, you get a snappy-looking genuine leather belt cartridge holster. Attach it to your belt and you always have the Lone Ranger pens ready to use, wherever you are. What's more, this leather holder is beautifully embossed with pictures of the Lone Ranger himself, Silver and Tonto! And best of all, you get all three pens, *plus* the holder, for only \$1.00 on this 10-day home approval offer!

Only  
**\$1.00**  
Per Set



Write BLUE  
to send Secret  
Codes



Write RED  
when in danger—



Write GREEN  
to send  
a message



Lone Ranger's  
Own Pen

Danger Signal  
Pen

Tonto's Own  
Pen

Genuine  
Leather Holder

FUN INDUSTRIES, Dept. PH-22  
45 E. 17 St., New York 3, N. Y.

Rush me—Lone Ranger Silver Bullet Ball Pen Sets complete with leather holders. On arrival I will pay postman only \$1.00 each plus postage and delivery. If I am not satisfied for any reason at all, I'll return them within 10 days, and you will refund my money.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

NOTE: Send cash, check, or money order with this coupon, and we pay postage. Same refund guarantee.

## SEND NO MONEY

Send no money to get this official Lone Ranger Silver Bullet Ball Pen Set. Just mail coupon. When the postman brings your Lone Ranger set to your door, pay him only \$1.00 plus postage and delivery. If, at the end of 10 days, you don't agree that this is the greatest bargain you've ever seen, return the pens and holder—and your money will be cheerfully refunded. But hurry! Be first in your neighborhood to get this wonderful pen set! Mail coupon—NOW.

FUN INDUSTRIES, 45 E. 17 ST., N. Y. 3, N. Y.